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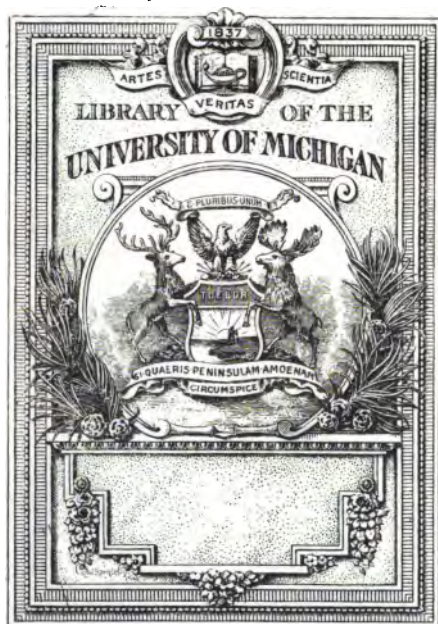
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## A WESTMORLAND VILLAGE



# A WESTMORLAND VILLAGE 127169

THE STORY OF THE OLD HOMESTEADS  
AND "STATESMAN" FAMILIES OF  
TROUTBECK BY WINDERMERE

BY

S. H. SCOTT

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

WESTMINSTER  
ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO., LTD.  
2, WHITEHALL GARDENS

1904

**BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO. LD., PRINTERS,  
LONDON AND TONBRIDGE.**



TO  
MR. GEORGE BROWNE,  
OF  
TOWNEND, TROUTBECK,  
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF GREAT  
KINDNESS AND HELP.

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# CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. A LAKELAND VALLEY AND ITS PEOPLE . . . . .	3
II. A STATESMAN'S HOME . . . . .	25
III. THE BROWNES OF TOWNEND . . . . .	43
IV. THE STATESMAN'S DAILY LIFE . . . . .	77
V. SPORTS AND PASTIMES . . . . .	101
VI. OLD CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS . . . . .	125
VII. OF SOME "CONTENTIOUS PERSONS" OF TROUTBECK . . . . .	143
VIII. SOME WORTHIES OF TROUTBECK . . . . .	163
IX. THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL . . . . .	175
X. A VIEW OF TROUTBECK. (I) FROM TOWNFOOT TO THE CRAGG . . . . .	187
XI. A VIEW OF TROUTBECK. (II) FROM MID-TOWN TO TOWNHEAD . . . . .	209
XII. SOME OUTLYING HOMESTEADS . . . . .	233
APPENDIX A. THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL . . . . .	247
APPENDIX B. CUSTOMS OF THE MANOR OF WIN- DERMERE . . . . .	252
APPENDIX C. SOME OLD STATESMAN FAMILIES . . . . .	261

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

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	PAGE
BROW HEAD . . . . .	13
LOW HOUSE . . . . .	35
TOWNEND . . . . .	61
OLD BARN AT TOWNEND . . . . .	87
HIGH FOLD (FROM THE SOUTH) . . . . .	117
GALLERY AT LOW FOLD . . . . .	135
GREAT HOUSE . . . . .	153
SCHULIE'S HOME . . . . .	167

## **CHAPTER I.**

### **A LAKELAND VALLEY AND ITS PEOPLE**

**W.V.**

**B**



# A WESTMORLAND VILLAGE.

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## CHAPTER I.

### A LAKELAND VALLEY AND ITS PEOPLE.

THE traveller who climbs up from the Windermere railway station to the head of Kirkstone Pass will find himself, when he has mounted the steep rise by St. Catherine's brow, following a road which runs along one side of the Troutbeck Valley. To his left there is a glorious prospect across the widest and loveliest reach of Windermere; in the foreground the level pastures of Calgarth, and beyond the lake the twin Langdale Pikes, with the peaks of the Cumberland mountains rising in an exquisite combination in the distance. Below him are the wooded banks of the stream which

gives its name to the dale, and the fells beyond it are the Troutbeck "Hundreds," once the common pasture of the farms in the valley, now divided into "allotments."

The village has less than five hundred inhabitants and consists of little clusters of houses which straggle along the hill-side in a long line for about a mile, with the high-road from Ambleside winding through them.

These houses, some of a sombre grey, others gleaming in their fresh whitewash, are half hidden in trees, which dot the grassy hill-side till the green fields end and give place to the dark patches of heather, mingled with the slate tones of the bare rock and vivid bits of colour where the bracken is growing.

Further away is the more rugged outline of Wansfell, rocky and of a darker hue. The valley is enclosed on the north and east by the big brown slopes of the Yoke and Froswick and the humps of Ill Bell and High Street, which rise to a height of 2,700 feet—not a very imposing range in the sunlight, but one which looms out



immense and mysterious when shrouded in rain and cloud.

The walls of these houses are built of the grey stone from the nearest quarry, not hewn, squared, or pointed, but roughly split and skilfully laid so that very little mortar is required. The roofs are of green slate from the Applethwaite fells; the gables sometimes stepped with heavy slabs of stone as a protection against the storms of winter. The typical chimneys are built of small stones in that round shape, rather like a funnel, which is peculiar to this part of England. A substantial stone porch, often two-storied, generally shelters the entrance; the windows are small, with oak mullions, and occasionally the leaded lights remain with fragments of the old green coloured glass.

The road descends into the valley, crosses the bridge over the beck, winds past the church and schools, and then climbs up again on the other side to the furthest clump of houses known as Townhead, whence the ascent is long and steep to the summit of

the Kirkstone Pass, the defile which leads into Patterdale and the Cumberland valleys, and which it was the special duty of the Troutbeck yeomen to defend against the inroads of marauding Scots.

According to the old saying Troutbeck should be happy, for it has had no history, strictly speaking, and its story is made up of the uneventful lives of an honest and frugal people, never passing rich, who tended their flocks of mountain sheep and reaped their oats without concerning themselves with the affairs of the nation.

The Lake Country was necessarily isolated from the rest of England by natural difficulties of communication, and the story of Troutbeck in the past is nowise different from that of any other of the pastoral communities of the Westmorland fells, but it may be taken as a typical example of an order of things in some ways peculiar to that bonny country known as "the Western Marches anent Scotland."

The village is changing rapidly in appearance; many of the old homes have been

deserted and allowed to fall into ruin ; many have been lately modernised out of all recognition.

The population was considerably increased some years ago through the re-opening of the Slate Quarries at Troutbeck Park, and this influx of a new population, together with the gradual disappearance of the old landowners and the invasion of the tourist from the south, has made a great change. There still remains, however, a sufficient number of the old houses, some of them very ruinous, to arouse the curiosity of those interested in such matters, and to afford a glimpse of the life in times gone by of the people of the fells.

Troutbeck is first mentioned in an inquisition of the year 1282, and is supposed to have been so called because the beck was a spawning place for the large lake or grey trout. Disappointed anglers have lately declared the stream to be named on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle, but that the name has not always been inappropriate is evident from the dispute in 1615, concerning

the King's right to take fish in the beck (see p. 146), when it was stated that into the "River of Troutbecke about October cometh great abundance of trowtes and salmonds to spawne."

The ancient township of Troutbeck included the present township, and also that of Ambleside, and being a royal deer forest was subject to the rigorous forest laws of the period. A place called Gallow Howe is said to mark the spot where the gallows stood for the punishment of offenders.

In 1336, William de Courcy complained that William de Roos of Kendale, and his brothers, Marmaduke de Twenge, Adam del Clere, Roger Otteway of Kirkby in Kendale, John de Levens, and about twenty others, "entered his free chase and broke his park at Troutbeck, hunted there, carried away deer, and killed two mares of his, worth £20."<sup>1</sup>

The forest was granted with the rest of

<sup>1</sup> For this extract from the Calendar of Patent Rolls and for other information I am indebted to Mr. J. A. Martindale, of Staveley.

the Fee by Henry VIII. to his mother, the Countess of Richmond, whence these lands are said to be of Richmond Fee of the Barony of Kendal.

Ambleside was divided from Troutbeck in 1552, when the forest was "disparked." The eastern side of the valley is part of the township of Applethwaite.

The old enclosed deer park did not include the whole township of Troutbeck and Ambleside, but only a portion of the southern end of Troutbeck extending down to the lake. Many years after the park was "disparked," land was described in conveyances as being in the Old Park.

"The ancient park was disparked," say Burn and Nicholson in their history of Cumberland and Westmorland, "and divided among the tenants. They who had land without wood were to have a share (although in another man's allotment) where wood grew. Hence it is that some tenants have dalts of wood in other men's ground."

The new park, with rather different boundaries, was granted by King Charles I. to

Huddleston Philipson for his good service in the civil wars, and the grant was afterwards confirmed by Charles II. to Sir Christopher Philipson, son of Huddleston.

The township is divided into "hundreds," just as Kentmere is divided into "quarters"; a fact which has given rise to some local witticisms :

" Three hundred brigs i' Trout,  
Three hundred bulls,  
Three hundred constables,  
And several hundred fools."

The valley was probably at one time more thickly wooded than it is now, if the old saying is to be believed that a squirrel could travel without touching ground from Threshwaite mouth to Windermere shore. A nimble animal would probably find but little difficulty in doing so to-day if it confined itself to the bushes which, as any fisherman will remember, fringe the banks of the beck, but as the expression is used in a figurative sense, it probably implied that the timber of Troutbeck was a greater glory than it is now. The same phrase is used in an old

saying with regard to the Rossendale valley in Lancashire.

It is also probable, considering the beds of sand which are found up to a certain height, that the lower lying portions of Troutbeck were once covered with water. If a dam were placed across Bendslop, the valley would be covered with water up to Troutbeck Park (the new park), leaving two islands, Ward Howe and the Park Hill, a little to the south-east of Troutbeck Park House.

The country is less wooded now than formerly, on account of the relaxation of the stringent regulations to protect the timber; firstly, for use in the royal ship-building yards, and secondly in order that the supply of fuel might not be exhausted. With the introduction of iron for the former, and coal for the latter, there was no longer need of such protection, and the trees were ruthlessly cut down.

The township is notable for its families of "statesmen," that is to say, of small freeholders, or, to be more precise, "customary

tenants." The statesman's position, as a freeholder to all intents and purposes, differentiates him from the ordinary farmer, who is a tenant with only a temporary interest in the soil.

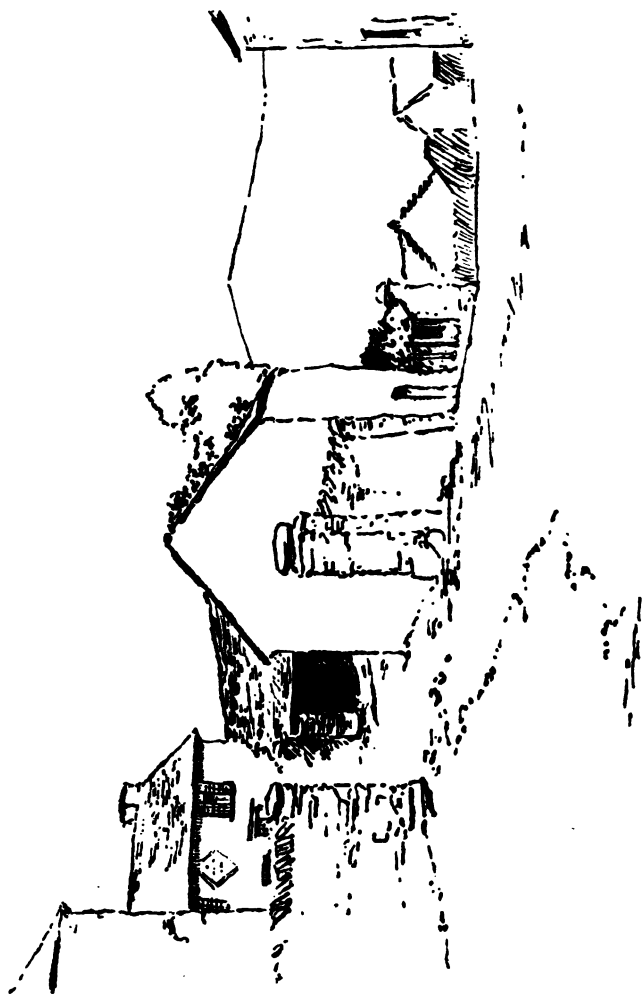
This is perhaps the only part of England where the small freeholder—the yeoman of old English song—is still to be found in considerable numbers, and the class is sadly decayed even here.

Practically every statesman holds his lands by customary tenure, and as this tenure is peculiar to the West Marches, it will, perhaps, be as well to add a few words of explanation of its peculiarities.

The customary tenant is to be distinguished from the freeholder and from the copyholder, in that he is not seised of his land in fee simple as is the former, and is not subject to the disabilities of the latter; nor are his customary dues considered derogatory to the "nobility of the tenure."

It is a perilous undertaking to venture on the troubled waters of our early Constitutional history, and amid so many conflicting





BROW HEAD



opinions it is dangerous to make any very positive assertion as to the beginnings of the manor system which will be safe from the attacks of one school or another of historians to-day. If it is difficult to reconcile the opinions of to-day, it is impossible to anticipate those of ten years hence.

The view which is held by some authorities on Border Tenant Right may be set forth thus: Briefly, the copyholder is descended from the villeins of the feudal manor, who held their land by base, onerous, and uncertain services; a community which may or may not have been originally free, but which had certainly sunk to a miserable state of servitude; in the first place probably to some Saxon lord, and then to his Norman successor. His tenure is "by copy of court roll, according to the custom of the manor," and the conveyance of a copyhold estate is to this day a surrender to the lord of the manor, who admits as the new tenant the nominee of the former tenant, the lord's right of veto having gradually ceased to exist.

On the other hand the customary tenants of Cumberland and Westmorland, and some parts of the adjoining counties, springing from communities which had never sunk to so low a depth, held their lands by a superior tenure. Their services were fixed and certain, and their estates, "descendible from ancestor to heir under certain yearly rents," passed by ordinary deed of conveyance.

A copyholder has no property in the timber on the land; the customary tenant owns everything, as if it were freehold, except the minerals beneath the soil. He pays yearly the customary rent to the lord of the manor, say six shillings and eight pence. The admitted tenant pays a fine of twice the yearly lord's rent and a piece of silver, usually four shillings, called a "God's Penny."

Every customary tenant can devise his land by will; failing a will it descends to the eldest son; failing a son, to the eldest daughter, to the exclusion of her sisters.

Likewise, the widow of a deceased tenant, contrary to the usual law, receives for her dower the whole of the profits of a customary

estate, not a mere third share, subject to the payment of a heriot, generally a piece of plate or the best beast on the farm.

The reason of this deviation from the law of descent of freeholds was to avoid breaking up small estates, many of which contributed only one man to Border Service, and the consequent inconvenience of having to send the fraction of a man ! For in this turbulent border region all the land was held by what is known as Border Tenant Right, and every customary tenant was liable for service to defend the border against the Scots.

In the first year of Queen Elizabeth it was enacted that " All tenants between the ages of sixteen and sixty are to serve the Queen in their most defensible array for war at all times on horseback as well as on foot at the west borders of England for anent Scotland at their own proper costs and charges ; so to be ready night and day at the commandment of the lord Warden of the said Marches being warned thereto by Beacon fire Post and Proclamation and there to continue during the said lord Warden's pleasure."

On Ward hill, a low round topped hill not far from the church, the dalesmen kept watch and ward to light signal beacons giving notice of a border raid. The last time that watch and ward is known to have been kept was at the time of the Jacobite rising<sup>1</sup> in 1715, but it is probable that it was also kept in 1745.

It is said that a game called Scots and English, played till recently by the children of Westmorland, perpetuated the memory of these affrays on the Marches. The children divided into two sides, and the game was not unlike that of "Prisoner's Base."

The Roman road on the north side of Blue Fell is to this day called Scots Raike.

There is a hill near Troutbeck called

<sup>1</sup> In the Troutbeck constable's accounts for the year ending May, 1716, there is the item—"For building a caban for watching, £1 os. 0d." Probably a similar watch was kept in the '45, as in the same accounts for the year ending May, 1747, is the entry: "To Robt. Birkett for taking 2 Rebels and Expenses in keeping them all night and taking them to Kendal, 3s. 6d."

John Bell's Banner, and it has been asserted that this name recalls another curious incident of customary tenure in former times. The lords of the adjoining manors had once a year a boon day for hunting the red deer, and at one time the several tenants were bound by the terms of their tenure to attend with their dogs at certain appointed stations for the purpose of driving the deer down into the valleys and glens, and preventing their escape to the mountains. These stations were called "banner dales." The tenants were rewarded for their services by a dinner and a quart of ale each, and whosoever should seize the deer had its head.

Troutbeck was originally divided into seventy-two tenements, called Five Chattell<sup>1</sup> (or Cattle) tenements. A Five Chattell had five cattle "gaits" on the "Hundreds"—the right to turn five beasts on to the fells which were the common pasture. As early

<sup>1</sup> "Chattels," in law, are personal as opposed to real property—a more comprehensive term than "goods." In early times personal property consisted chiefly in domestic animals, hence called "cattle."

as the time of Henry VIII. some tenants were holding two of these tenements. Such a holding became a Ten Chattell, paying a rent of 13s. 4d. to the lord, double the rent of the Five Chattell.

After the Old Park had been divided among the tenants the Lord's Rent was fixed at 6s. 8d. for each tenement. There was also a small Fire Rent, which varied in amount according to the number of fire-places in a house—a rough index, no doubt, to its size.

According to the Rental made in 1675 there were 48 tenants. Of these 22 were holding intact an original tenement; the others had accumulated several tenements or only held a part of one, the old restrictions as to sub-division being now relaxed as Border Service had ceased. The lord's rent is now paid to Lord Lonsdale, the present lord of the manor.

Under this system of customary tenure there has grown up a race of men singularly sturdy, independent, and tenacious of their rights, and occasionally even accused of



being "addicted to suits at law and contentcon." Instead of the land being occupied by two or three squires, and a subservient tenantry, this single township has contained some fifty statesman families, which have held the same land from generation to generation with all the pride of a territorial aristocracy.

A word as to the origin of the word "statesman." An erroneous derivation, which has gained authority by repetition, leads to the spelling "'statesman" as if there were an elliptical "e." Wordsworth and De Quincey are both responsible for perpetuating this mistake.

The older writers invariably spell "statesman" without the apostrophe. It is true that the word "state" was once commonly used for "estate," but even so it by no means follows that the term "statesman" is derived from the possession of a *state*. It is quite possible, in the writer's opinion, that it is connected with the word "stead"; hence "steadsman"—a man who had a "standing" in the country. The word

"stead"<sup>1</sup> is still used with the meaning "place" in the word "homestead" and similar compounds. At all events, if we must resist the temptation to trace the word back to its Scandinavian equivalent we can at least say that it is apparently a local word used with a special significance.

<sup>1</sup> "Stead" is in Icelandic "stadha"; Middle High German, "stat"; German, "statt"; Swedish, "stad"; and Danish, "sted." "Steadman" and "Stead" are ordinary Westmorland surnames.

**CHAPTER II.**  
**A STATESMAN'S HOME.**



## CHAPTER II.

### A STATESMAN'S HOME.

ADJOINING Mr. Birkett-Forrest's house towards the southern end of Troutbeck there stands an old house long since deserted. Its broken lines of roof are very picturesque, and it may be taken as a typical example of the old Troutbeck house.<sup>1</sup>

It is an L-shaped house, with a double porch, in which are two stone seats, and is practically unaltered since it was sketched by William Green of Ambleside in 1802, save that the chimney is represented by him as rather higher than it is now, although it

<sup>1</sup> This is a plan typical of the older houses of these parts. With the eighteenth century a rather different plan seems to have become more general for the smaller houses. The main entrance was into the "house." On the left of the "house" was the kitchen. Divided from the "house" by an oak partition were the dairy and best bedroom. There were cellars under these two rooms.

is not of the familiar round shape. As the building is now used for storing wood and coals, and as part of it has been partitioned off as a shed for carts it is not quite apparent at first to the uninitiated observer what has been the original form of the house. It is explained as follows :

The door, which is sheltered by the porch with a curved oak beam, led into the "hallan," or passage. This entrance, says a writer in the *Lonsdale Magazine* for 1820, was called the "threshwood," or threshold. "Correctly speaking, the 'threshwood' was a hugh piece of oak let into the ground and secured to the walls on each side.

"The inconvenience of this 'threshwood' standing five or six inches from the floor first suggested the idea of laying a stone in its place, and it was upon this that crossed straws and horseshoes were laid to prevent the entrance of witches."

In the hallan the sacks of corn were deposited the night before the market day. Here, too, pigs were hung up after they had been killed. Between the joists, a collection

of sickles was generally to be found. A shelf over the door served as a receptacle for the hammers, nails, and other carpentry tools of the farmer."

A door at the end of the "hallan" on the right hand side led into the "down-house," which in this particular building is now used as a cartshed. It has only one storey, and the room being unceiled is open to the rafters of the roof. The "down-house" was used for brewing and baking, and for storing "elding," that is to say fuel, whether wood or turf.

A door at the end of the "hallan," opposite the front entrance, led into the garden, and another door on the left-hand side (the "mell door"), led into the "mell," or passage screened off from the house-place by the "heck," or partition of oak projecting into the room.

The same writer tells us—"In houses of the most ancient date, this 'heck' reached as far into the room as the first beam of the upper storey, where a huge octagonal post formed its termination. It was usual to bore a hole into this post and secure a piece

of cow-hair in the hole by a wooden peg, for the purpose of cleaning combs. Behind this 'heck' was generally a bench or seat, covered with woolly sheep skins, or with a cushion which owed its existence to the good housewife's thrift."

In Troutbeck this partition was generally represented by a very rough and solid block of masonry, terminated by a great balk of oak. The "heck" formed a corner by the fire, the counterpart of the ingle-nook which is now a feature of our "artistic" drawing-rooms, and it served to shelter the hearth from the draught which blew down the "mell" from the "hallan."

The house-place or "house" was the living room of the family; where they ate their meals and spent their leisure. It is a large room with a window to the east, giving a beautiful view of the fells on the other side of the valley. The door from the "house" into the farmyard is a modern one, and did not exist in the original building. Three windows between this door and the fireplace have been blocked up.



Two of these windows have doubtless been divided into three or four lights by oak mullions crossed by a transom, and fitted with leaded panes of glass, diamonds or squares. The third window, called the "fire-window," was smaller, and probably had only two lights divided by one mullion, and these being only about eighteen inches in height were not sub-divided by a transom.

The framework of two similar transom windows and the fire-window are intact in the ruinous buildings which belong to Drummelmire, near the "Mortal Man" Hotel in Troutbeck.

The window at the back of the house (in this case on the eastern side) was smaller than the two transom windows, and probably quite near the "mell door."

To the left of the "house" is a small panelled room which has been the "bower"—the bedroom of the master and mistress—always downstairs in early times.

The small "hallan" leading to the staircase is inlaid with pieces of Westmorland slate laid edgeways, making a rough design.

A door on the left of this small "hallan" leads to the room which forms the projecting wing of the L, and which has originally been a parlour.

The rooms upstairs are unceiled and open to the rafters of the roof. These bedrooms were called "lofts." (See the will of Thomas Browne of Townend, p. 47). There are four bedrooms divided by oak partitions between five and six feet high. These are the rooms over the "house," bower and kitchen. In this building there are no rooms over the "down-house," of which the roof is lower than the rest of the building, but in larger and more important dwellings there were rooms over the "down-house," separated from the rest of the upper storey and approached by a separate staircase. These were the rooms given over to the "hinds" or men-servants, who always lived under the same roof and dined with the family at the long oak table in the "house."

Over the porch there has been, in all probability, a small oak-panelled closet, similar

to the one at Townend and to the one at Low Fold, which projects like an oriel window from the outer wall (p. 194).

Let us try to picture the old house as it was when it was inhabited.

To begin with the "house." The room was low, and heavy oak beams supported the upper floor. The walls were plastered, and a raised pattern, probably some adaptation of the fleur-de-lys design similar to that at Wood Farm (p. 240), ran along what we now call the frieze. The remains of this could be seen till recently in the bower, and also in the kitchen.

The fireplace was an open hearth, and the fire of wood or peat was arranged upon the fire-dogs. The stone mantelpiece with the fluted pattern is typical of a Troutbeck farmhouse, and was probably placed there about 150 years ago.

Previous to the time when the stone mantel was erected the fireplace had been of a more primitive type, such as is very seldom seen now-a-days. The chimney wing extended as far into the room as the

first big beam which supports the second storey, and the flue descended no lower than the second floor.

In many old farmhouses this was the only part of the room where a tall man could stand upright.

"Very often a wooden beam, the 'rannel-balk,' was placed across the chimney, and from this hung a chain with hooks suitable for hanging different cooking utensils thereon. In better houses there was a long crook from the 'rannel-balk' to the fire, called the 'rattencrook.'<sup>1</sup>"

In the room above a great chimney cheek projected many feet into the room, built of rough unhewn blocks of stone, rudely piled one upon the other, their jagged edges projecting and uncovered by plaster

<sup>1</sup> "*Ratten crook*" may be a corruption of "*racken crook*," which would be a more descriptive term—a rack. In the inventory of the goods of James Longmire, of Limefitt, in 1751, it is written "*rattancrooke*," but in the inventory of Thomas Rawlinson, of Grisedale, in 1591, it does appear as "*rackencrooke*," and as "*raking crocke*" in that of John Rowlandson, of Troutbeck, 1569 (p. 79).

or any other material. The best example in the neighbourhood of this primitive hearth is at Orrest, on the Applethwaite side of the valley (see p. 237).

In the Drummelmire out-buildings (see p. 217) the fireplace remains in its original state, and shows the chimney cheek upstairs built of roughly split blocks of stone, which should be compared with that in the out-buildings of Great House (p. 214), where it is made of lath and plaster.

In the chimney wing were hung hams and sides of bacon and beef drying for winter use, for in the old days it was the custom to kill the oxen in the autumn and salt the beef to last through the winter. Fresh meat was unknown for many months in the year, since our forefathers had no oil-cake on which to feed cattle through the winter when there was no pasture.

In the ingle stood an oak settle screened by the "heck," and on the opposite side of the fireplace was a "locker," a small cupboard or recess in the thick stone wall. In

this locker was placed anything that it was necessary to keep dry, as it was so near the fire.

The cupboard was divided by a shelf, with two doors, both handsomely carved. On the framework to which the doors were hinged were the initials of George and Elizabeth Birkett,<sup>1</sup> to whom the house belonged, and the date, 1683. The cupboard doors have been removed, since the house became ruinous, to an old house near Bowness to fit a similar locker. This George Birkett is described as "Capton," and was the donor of the chalice which is kept in the church.

To continue our imaginary picture of the interior of the house. Near the hearth we should expect to find one or two carved oak chairs. On the deep sill beneath the "fire-window" the family Bible and a few books were to be found.

This was a favourite seat in winter-time,

<sup>1</sup> These Birketts do not belong to the family whose descendant, Mr. Birkett-Forrest, now owns Low House, but to another family of the great Birkett clan.



LOW HOUSE (*described in this chapter*).

[illegible]



and comfortable enough except in stormy weather, when the rain or snow poured down on to the hearth, as the chimney was all unprotected, and the reader could sit by the "fire-window" and look up at the sky above him.

At the other end of the room stood a large oak cupboard, carved with the owner's initials—the bread cupboard, where the oat bread was stored and kept for several months. This bread was made of oatmeal and water and clapped with the hands, instead of rolled with a rolling-pin, into a broad thin cake, called clap-cake, and then laid up in the cupboard.

Under the transom windows was a long narrow oak table with heavy bulbous-shaped legs, and there were forms on which the household and servants sat at table. At Townend there is a curious oak form which folds away under the table when not in use.

Upon the mantelpiece stood rushlight holders and candlesticks of beaten iron or brass. Many of these, which have been

preserved in neighbouring houses, are of curious and very varied design.

The other parts of the room were lighted by standard holders, about three feet high, for tallow candles or rushlights. The candles and rushlights were made at home, and a candle mould was one of the common domestic appliances.

In the "down-house" was another great open hearth. Upon the heap of wood ashes stood the "brandreth," an iron tripod, on which was placed the "girdle," a large round iron plate, for baking oat-bread, called havers. Before the fire stood a spit. The two standards which support the horizontal rod were hinged, so that they could be folded and laid aside when not in use. They were three feet high, with seven hooks, on which the spit could be placed at different heights. The spit, a slender horizontal rod, was six feet in length, and terminated in a handle, by which it could be made to revolve. On the rod were two pairs of prongs to hold the meat. Beneath was an old-fashioned dripping-pan. In front of this lay the fender,

which could be made longer or shorter, according to the dimensions of the fire.<sup>1</sup>

A hand-mill, or "quern," was used to reduce grain to meal, a primitive appliance which probably survived till a late date among the outlying fell farms. For brewing a malt-mill was used. A spindle and "whorl," the predecessor of the spinning-wheel, was not uncommon in a Westmorland farm.

In the bower stood a four-post bedstead of carved oak. Probably there was also a carved oak cradle similar to the one at Townend. An oak "kist" for linen and a chest of drawers were also necessities.

Upstairs the wooden latches on the doors are worthy of notice, being peculiar to north-country houses. The wooden latch is raised from the other side of the door by means of a thole pin, and as it is difficult to

<sup>1</sup> The spit which I have described is one which belongs to Mr. George Browne, of Townend. There is an interesting article in Vol. xiii. of the transactions of the Westmorland and Cumberland Antiquarian Society on these domestic appliances.

turn the pin unless the door is tightly closed, there is a "pull" for this purpose.

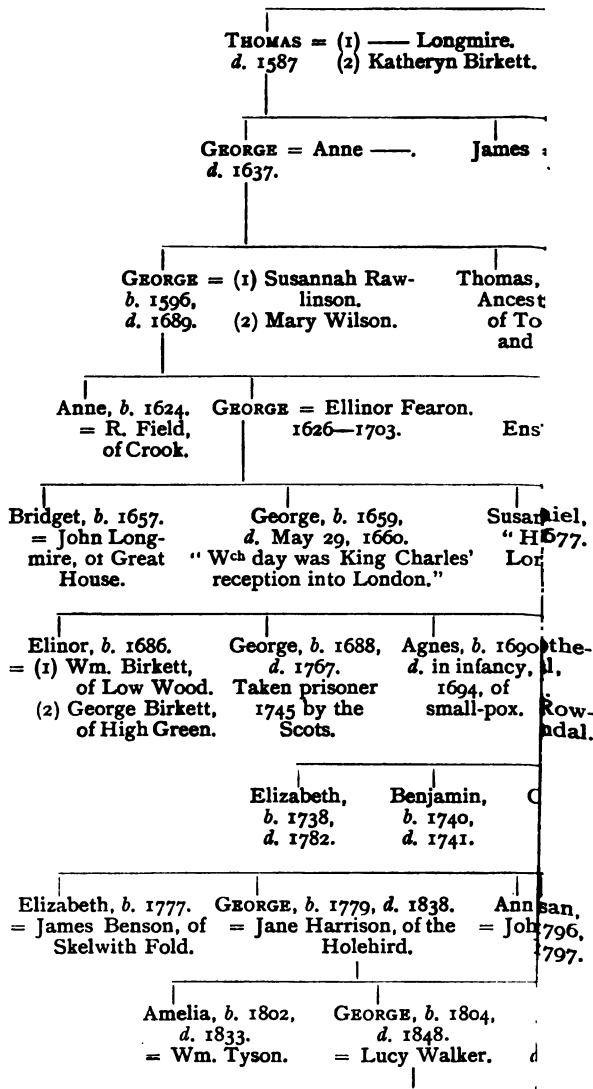
The bedrooms occupied by the "hinds" were more roughly furnished.

At Townend the staircase to this part of the house is spiral, and composed of solid blocks of oak, not boards. The beds were very rudely built of oak planks, and in one room there were three very large "kists": one for malt, one for meal, and one for oat-bread.

CHAPTER III.  
THE BROWNES OF TOWNEND.









## CHAPTER III.

### THE BROWNES OF TOWNEND.

No name has been more prominently connected with Troutbeck than that of Browne. Although there is no evidence to show that the family were settled there before the beginning of the sixteenth century, it may reasonably be supposed that they had then been living at Townend for some time, not in the present house, which was rebuilt in 1623, but in the earlier building which stood on this site.

As there is more ample material to illustrate the genealogy of the Brownes of Townend than any other Troutbeck family, it may be of interest to trace the fortunes of the line for the last three hundred and fifty years. The story of the Brownes is typical of that of the substantial statesman families, showing their frequent intermarriage with

neighbouring families, and how the same lands have been handed on for generations from father to son.

The first mention of the name is in an "award made the XII<sup>th</sup> day of March, XV<sup>th</sup> Henry VIII., between Myles Dickson, of Applethwaite, yeoman, and George Browne, of Troutbeck, yeoman, . . . given to the said pties by Edwyn Gilpyng and Thomas Bellenh<sup>m</sup> w<sup>t</sup> others."

This, then, is the first George Browne of whom we have any record, living in 1525. The parchment is the earliest of the MSS. which are preserved at Townend, and bears the date 1534, being actually the record of an award made in March, 1534, which refers to two previous awards between the same parties in 1525 and January, 1534.

In 1538, again, George Browne, yeoman, makes an agreement with "Jamys Bratwhat, son of Johan Bratwhat, of the same Troutbeck, husbandman, concerning a tenement of V Cattalls lying in Troutbeck late in the holding of Robert Byrkhed."

It was decided that "the said george

browne or his assignes do pay unto the said myles (Dickson) or his assignes upon the second sonday in lente next comyng XI. Vs. of able ynglishe money upon our ladye alter in Wynandermer church betwixt VIII. of the clock and XII. of the foresaid sonday."

This George Browne was in all probability the same who left a will in 1558, which is also among the Townend documents. If the two names are not identical they are those of father and son. At any rate the descent of the Brownes of Townend from this George, who died in 1558, is clearly proved by documentary evidence. He is the *Stammvater*, as the Germans have it, of the several Browne families of Troutbeck.

This Westmorland yeoman was a man of considerable property. He possessed four "five cattle" tenements,<sup>1</sup> and as originally each tenant held only one such tenement, it is to be presumed that the family had been settled in Troutbeck for some time before four tenements had accumulated in the hands of one family. George Browne had

<sup>1</sup> See p. 19.

two sons, Thomas and Christopher, and three daughters : Elizabeth, who married one Christopher Bateman, Jane, and Ellinor.

To Thomas, the elder son, he left the double tenement on which he was living, Townend, and also the mill at Limefitt. This mill was said in 1699 to have been in the possession of the Brownes and their ancestors for "hundreds of years." If this is to be taken literally, it carries their possession back at least into the fifteenth century.

To Christopher, the younger son, two five cattle tenements were also bequeathed, including the one on which Christopher was then living. This Christopher was the ancestor of the Brownes of Townfoot, a family who were established there for two hundred years. Townfoot is a picturesque building at the foot of a steep brow at the southern extremity of the village; in fact, it may be considered the first (or the last, according to the point of view) house in Troutbeck. The last George Browne of Townfoot died in 1787.

Thomas, the elder son, who received, as we have said, Townend and the Limefitt mill, took for his first wife a Longmire, who died in 1586. Next year he married Katheryn Birkett. In this same year he died himself, and his wife also, probably of a pestilence which visited Troutbeck. His will provides that his widow shall have the use of half the house and runs as follows:—

“I Will that Katheryn my wife have  $\frac{1}{2}$  of V Cattells during her widowhood and II lofts or chambers in the Same House, with room for her vestures in the Barn and in the Cowhouse for her Cattell, and also to have the wood in either garth according to my former consent. And I will that James my son have the other half of V Cattalls after Candlemas, he paying XXIII l. XIIs. and VIIId. to such persons as have ground or gresse [grass] intack [enclosure] or grayne forth of my tenement,” etc.

Thomas Browne left three sons: George, the eldest, James, and John. He had also three daughters: Izabell, born in 1579, who

married firstly George Braithwaite, of Troutbeck, and secondly Bryan Mackereth, of Skelwith, and two other daughters who are not named.

George, the eldest son of Thomas, married a wife named Ann, and died in 1637. He left four sons and three daughters: Elizabeth, Agnes, and Mary. The sons were named George, Thomas, James, and William.

George was baptised in 1596, and married in 1623 Susanna Rawlinson, daughter of Thomas Rawlinson, of Grisedale Hall, in Furness. Presumably the lady found the older house not to her liking, for in the marriage settlement it was stipulated that the house at Townend should be rebuilt, so that the date of the existing building is thus fixed. His second wife was named Mary, probably a Wilson. Thomas, the second brother, baptised in 1599, became the ancestor of the Brownes of Townhead, Beckside, and Drummelmire, families which are now extinct. Of James, the third brother, little is known.

The fourth, William, born in 1606, was the ancestor of the Brownes of Orrest Head, in the adjoining township of Applethwaite. The last of this family was Josiah Browne, who died in 1801, and left a charity to the poor of Windermere. A tablet is erected to his memory in the old parish church of Windermere, at Bowness.

George Browne, of Townend, above mentioned, had four sons and as many daughters. The eldest was again named George. He was born in 1626, and died in 1703. In 1667 he was High Constable of Kendal Ward, of the county of Westmorland. As such it was his duty to raise the militia of the county, and the efficient performance of his duties is commended in a letter to him, signed and sealed by seven deputy lieutenants of the county, an interesting collection of the great names of Westmorland.

This George Browne is described as "gentleman," not as yeoman, like his ancestors. He married Ellinor Fearon, and through her his sons became descen-

dants of the Fletchers of Moresby and the Senhouses of Cumberland.

The second son of the elder George (he who married Susanna Rawlinson) was named Thomas, as we have said. He took part in the great civil war in 1646 as an ensign in Sir Henry Bellingham's regiment. The third son, Richard, died in 1669, and the fourth son, Thomas, born of the second marriage in 1648, died in London thirty years later. There were also three daughters: Katharine, who died unmarried; Susan, the wife firstly of James Idle, and secondly of John Birkett, of High Green; and Margaret.

The second son, heir of the High Constable, was christened Benjamin. The eldest, who bore the traditional name of George, died in infancy. Benjamin was born in 1664, and died in 1748. He married firstly Anne, daughter of George Longmire, of the Cragg, and secondly Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Birkett. Like his father, he was High Constable and Bridgemaster of Kendal Ward from 1711 to 1732, and so



held office during the troublous times of the '15, when the older Pretender made his unsuccessful invasion of England from the north.

Among the documents at Townend there is a series of letters and copies of warrants, which are very interesting in connection with this episode.

The alarm in the country was considerable.

"I doe not doubt but you have heard," wrote Lord Lonsdale, "th<sup>t</sup> a great many people in Scotland and Northumberland, with a design to fill the nation with Blood and bring in Popery, have taken up arms against the King and Government and every honest man. I have been also informed that a party of these have a design to invade this country. As I do not in the least question but you [the High Constable, Benjamin Browne] justly abhorr such horrid principles and Practices, so I hope you will take all possible means to preserve the Country from rapine and plunder. Wherefore I would desire you with all speed

to gett such arms as may be most easily had, and put them into the best condition you can, that in case they should persist in soe horrible an Enterprise wee may be in a condition to oppose them.

“ I am your very faithful friend  
and Servant,

“ LONSDALE.

“ LOWTHER, *October 16th, 1715.*

“ Please communicate this to all my Bailiffs in the District in the Barony.”

Next day Captain Fleming called out the militia to assemble near Eamont Bridge on the 25th.

The High Constable four days later sent orders to his seven subordinate petty constables of the parishes, commanding them to set a watch by day and night—

“ vizt., four men by day and six in the night to Sieze all persons suspected to be dangerous to the Government, and their papers, or such as cannot give a good account of themselves, to carry them before some of his Majestie’s Justices ot the

Peace for this County, and here of fail not at your peril.

Given under my hand the twenty-first day of October, Anno Domini 1715.

“BEN BROWNE,  
*High Constable of Kendall Ward.*”

On the 27th Benjamin Browne calls the Trainbands to arms at Kirkby Lonsdale:—

“In pursuance of a warrant from Captain Daniel Wilson to me directed. These are therefore to command you forthwith to summon the listed trainband foot within the constablewick to appear before him, the said Captain, at Richard Witton’s, in Kirkby Lonsdale, on Tuesday, the Eleventh day of this Instant, at nine o’clock in the forenoon, with their arms, and you are to summon three able men in place of every former listed soldier deceased, superannuated, or removed since the last muster to appear at the same time, soe that all Defects may be then Legally supplied by listing one man out of every of the said number of three, provided that no person be excused by reason

of age or infirmity but upon his first being viewed by his Captn. Here of fail not at yr peril. Given under my hand the Seventh day of October, Anno Domini 1715.

BEN BROWNE,

*High Constable of Kendall Ward."*

Apparently the men of Westmorland were not very warlike, and why should they be? They probably considered themselves not much concerned with the strife of Hanover and Stuart, provided that they were left in peace on their farms.

Kirkby Lonsdale was a safe distance away from the route of the rebels, who arrived unmolested at Kendal, but the dalesmen were chary of assembling in arms at all, and Lord Lonsdale exhorts the tenants of Troutbeck to obey the Sheriff's summons "by meeting him for the defence of yourselves and the country as you are by law obliged." His Lordship writes beseeching the tenants not "to be accounted traytors to your country by your slowness or negligence in appearing."

The High Constable had a busy time. For a week he was preparing warrants to summon men to arms. For copying these he charges 5s. The next item of his charges is the sum of 10s. for riding through the country to deliver the warrants.

On October 14th he is "Attending Captain Fleming at the Kings Arms [in Kirkby Lonsdale] when the Constable brought in the soldiers—one day 2s. 6d." Next day he is at Kendal "to receive new orders from the Deputy Lieutenants, 2s. 6d." Then he rides home to copy more warrants (which he does very neatly), and after that two days riding about the country with his son delivering them. For the next month his time is fully occupied raising the militia and Posse Comitatus, who were perhaps more ready to assemble when the invaders had marched away to the south. This work is diversified by searching the houses of sundry persons suspected of disaffection.

The High Constable received about

2s. 6d. per day as well as his travelling expenses, which were about 2s. a day. Considering the relative value of money, the Constable's arduous labours were not ill rewarded.

The third son of George Browne (and brother of Benjamin, just mentioned) was named Richard. He was born in 1669, and lost at sea about 1703. His brother Henry died in 1710, at "Gaunt in Flanders." The youngest of the family, born in 1677, was named Daniel. There were also three daughters. Bridget, the eldest, married John Longmire, of Great House; Susan died while a child; and Dorothy, married John Foster, of Clapham.

The High Constable, Benjamin Browne ("old Ben Browne," as he was called to distinguish him from his son), had four sons. Again the eldest is called George, but again he fails to survive his father and inherit the property. George was born in 1688. He became Clerk to the Board of Works at the docks at Berwick-on-Tweed.

He appears to have been rather an unsatisfactory son, to judge from the letter which Mrs. Benjamin Browne wrote to him in 1715:—

“Your Father (now being High Const<sup>l</sup>) is mightily involved in trouble. Hee is scarce a day at Home in a fortnight. He has never been at Home since Michaelmas Last above one day at a time, and when hee is at Home both himself and his boys writes day and night; and all this week he has been, and is now, abroad upon the Hunt for taking some rebels. I pray God grant that he take no harm. God knows hee is upon a desperate undertaking. But, dear George, he tells me with tears that all his troubles that he undergoes are not comparable to his concern hee is in about you, of your undutifullness to him, especially in your slowness in writing to him after all your misfortunes. Nay, dear George, I cannot Express his trouble upon your account. I pray write to him often and lett him understand your circumstances and thoughts heartily upon

all accounts, for he is one of the best of Fathers."

The second son, named Benjamin after his father, was at this time in London at the Temple. In 1719 he writes a letter, which is interesting as showing the ways of the undutiful George, who "designed to have writt," but who only adds a postscript to his brother's letter :—

" For

" Mr. Benjamin Browne att Troutbeck, these To be left at Mr. Rowlandson's shop in Kendall, Westmland.

" Hon<sup>d</sup>. Sir,—

" My Bro. Geo. and I have been Bed-fellows ever since the 12th Feb. last, but my bro. has been very ill in the Rheumatis<sup>m</sup>., but is something better. He is obliged to be out from 5 in the morning till at Night settling his acc<sup>ts</sup>. at the Board. I cannot give you a certain acc<sup>t</sup>. when he is going out of Town, but he thinks some time next week either the Capt<sup>n</sup>. or he must go. My



duty attends you and my mother, and kind  
Love to Bro<sup>th</sup>s. and sisters, wch is all from  
Yo<sup>r</sup>. Dutifull Obed<sup>t</sup>.

Son B. BROWNE.

Temple, 9 at Night

Mar. 12th, 1719.

“Bro. Geo. gives his Duty to you and my  
Mother, and designed to have writt; but he  
is not come from the Tower, and am afraid  
of loosing the Post.

“I am sorry to hear of Mr. Grisdale’s  
Losse, and that you have such sickness in  
the Countrey.

“there is great Pressing for the Fleet; they  
take 1,000 in one day.

“B. B.”

Then the elder brother, the undutiful  
George, writes a postscript:—

“P.S.—Sir, I have been much indisposed  
since my last in an ague and Feavour, but,  
thank God, am well recovered, only cannot  
quitt the Rhumatick sickness. I have been  
all this day for to gett a discharge for some  
of our Artificers w<sup>ch</sup>. came from Berwick

yesterday, and was Prest. I have been w<sup>th</sup>. the Lords of the Admiralty, but will not have a satisfactory answer till monday, being Board Day. I can scarce move hand or feet, I have been so fateagued. I cannot give you a pfect acc<sup>t</sup>. of my Removall from this wicked Town (very Troublesome); but the Capt<sup>n</sup>. Informes me either he or myself must go next week. But shall further Inform y<sup>o</sup>. next post. My duty waits on you and Mother."

The younger Benjamin married Elizabeth Longmire, daughter and heiress of James Longmire, of Limefitt, and so acquired the Limefitt property. He died in 1748, the same year as his father, the High Constable.

George and Benjamin had two brothers, of whom one, named Richard, went into Yorkshire and became an excise officer. He married a wife named Smith. His son, also named Richard, became Senior Canon of Ripon Cathedral in 1766. The Canon's son and two grandsons all entered the royal navy, and all three became post captains.

The youngest son of the elder Benjamin,



TOWNEND.



Christopher, became mayor of Kendal in 1734. He married Katharine Rowlandson, of that town.

There were also three daughters. Ellinor, born in 1686, married William Birkett, of Low Wood; Agnes died in infancy; and Anne married James Braithwaite, of Browhead, an old house described on p. 195.

The younger Benjamin and his wife Elizabeth left a son, George, who married Elizabeth Benson, of High Green, in 1775. Benjamin had also three daughters: Elizabeth, who died unmarried; Ann, who married William Benson, of Skelwith; and Dorothy, who married Christopher Birkett, of Browfoot, an old house near Townend, which is now dismantled.

George and Elizabeth had a large family. The eldest son, born in 1779, was of course named George. The other sons were Benjamin, who became a doctor at Ambleside and was drowned in Windermere while sailing on the lake, and Thomas, born in 1792, vicar of Carlton in Cleveland.

The other children were daughters:

Elizabeth, born in 1777 ; Ann, born in 1782, married John Walton, of Patterdale ; Ellinor, born in 1784, married Matthew Forrest ; Dorothy, born in 1789, married James Wilson, of Troutbeck Bridge ; Susan, born in 1796, died while a child.

The eldest son, George, married in 1801 Jane Harrison, of Holehird, of the family of the Harrisons of the Bought in Applethwaite, who came originally from Patterdale. He had nine children. The eldest son was yet another George. The other children were Amelia, Jane, Benjamin, Thomas, Harrison, Elizabeth, Richard, and John.

George married Lucy Walker in 1832, and left an only child, George Browne, now of Townend, eleventh in descent from George Browne, who died in 1558.

Townend is the most picturesque and the most important of the old Troutbeck homes. "A very good mansion house" it is termed two centuries ago. It stands at the southern end of the village, surrounded by a belt of fine trees. In a row of yews which were planted nearly two hundred years ago many

families of rooks remain in their ancestral seats. The house is of irregular shape, consisting of a centre and two wings, one wing standing back; the gables crowned by the typical round chimneys, some of them covered with ivy.

The ground plan has been considerably altered in recent times. The front door now leads into a passage which opens on the right into the general living-room, the "house," as a Westmorland man calls it; but the earlier arrangement was an entrance into a passage or "hallan" which can still be traced on the west side of the "house," so that a door on the left led into the "house" and on the right into the "down-house." Behind the "house" is the library, formerly the "bower" or "sleeping-parlour" where stood the carved oak bedstead which has been removed upstairs. Notwithstanding these alterations the interior keeps an old-world appearance. Against the wainscoted wall of the "house," beneath the mullioned window, is a long oak table where a generation ago the master and mistress used to

dine with their family and servants. The room is full of oak furniture, much of it marked with the initial B. of many bye-gone Brownes.<sup>1</sup>

Among the most interesting pieces is a very handsomely carved armchair with the initials of Benjamin Browne, the High Constable, and the date 1702. On the back are four shields displaying the double-headed eagle of the Brownes,<sup>2</sup> the three garbs of the Birketts, the hunting-horn of the Braithwaites, and the three lions' gambes of the Forrests.

It may come as a surprise to many people, as it certainly was to the writer, to learn that armorial bearings were ever thought of by the statesman families, since "statesman" is generally translated "yeoman," and the most usual definition of a yeoman would be a man who held land, but did not

<sup>1</sup> NOTE.—The original ground-plan of Townend resembled that of the typical Troutbeck house described in Chapter II. The position of the mell, heck, etc., can easily be traced in the existing building.

<sup>2</sup> The High Constable used a very pretty seal, quartering the Browne and Birkett arms.



aspire to bear arms ; this being almost the only characteristic which distinguished him from the smaller gentry, who were very little superior to him in wealth or in education, and with whom he frequently intermarried.

A recent writer has expressed his disappointment at the discovery, complaining that an armigerous statesman is an anomaly. "Turn a statesman into an armiger," he says, "and he loses all interest at once."

It appears that the statesman families cannot justify their assumption of arms by showing grants from the College of Arms, nor are their coats noted in the record of the Visitations. In this the statesman is in like case with some of the best blood in other parts of the country, whose undoubted right to arms has never been called in question, but who were either ignored by the visiting heralds, or who more probably sent them about their business with a curse on their impertinent inquiries. This is no place for a discussion of this much disputed question, on which much good ink has already been expended. For the curious in such

matters the literature on the subject is already sufficiently extensive.

It should be remembered, however, that the position assumed by the champions of the College of Arms is assailed by the leading authorities on genealogy and heraldry. Rightly or wrongly the fact remains that, at a period long anterior to the wholesale adoption of "crests," these escutcheons were borne by the leading statesman families, and there is no record of interference with their privileges on the part of any heraldic authority.<sup>1</sup> Doubtless the hardships and difficulties of a tour in the more remote valleys of the Lake Country would deter the most enterprising herald from prosecuting his inquiries, "and any official," says Mr. R. S. Ferguson, "who had ventured to call in question the right of these warlike yeomen to exercise their heraldic fancies

<sup>1</sup> NOTE.—Among the Townend MSS. there is a copy of a grant by Norroy in 1606 to the Braithwaites of Ambleside. As they have *forgotten the colours* of the arms which they have borne for generations on their seals, Norroy assigns the colours sable and or. These Braithwaites, however, are always termed Esquires.

would have run a grave risk of being made a spatchcock of, in other words, of his head being stuck in a rabbit hole and his legs staked to the ground."

Not all the oak furniture at Townend, however, is old, for Mr. Browne has carried on the traditions of the old Westmorland craftsman and has added furniture of his own handiwork to the treasures which he has inherited.

Townend is a veritable delight for the antiquary—old furniture, old books, old household utensils are here ; and above all the collection of manuscripts dating from the early years of the sixteenth century onwards, from which we have quoted extracts. The charm of these things is that they are all in the place to which they belong, with their proper surroundings.

It is Mr. Browne's wise forethought which rescued from the lumber-room and the scrap-heap, before it was too late, the collection of those domestic appliances which have only passed out of use within the memory of man—rushlight holders, candle-moulds and the like.

Besides some hundred odd parchment deeds there are other manuscripts, now bound into seventeen substantial volumes, which were formerly kept in the drawers which fit into the recesses of the wall of a little chamber out of one of the bedrooms. This collection of old deeds, wills, letters, household accounts, inventories, and diaries, is a perfect mine of information, relating not only to Troutbeck families, but to many others in Westmorland and Lancashire over Sands.

The library contains about two thousand printed books and a very interesting collection it is—a complete library of two centuries ago, showing that the Brownes of that day were no unlettered country folk.

The following inventory of the household effects of Townend in 1731 gives a good idea of how the house was furnished in the first half of the eighteenth century. The list is as follows :—

In the House :

One Long Table, two buffett Forms  
before it, four Chairs, one skreen or  
Long Settle.

In the Parlour :

One oval Table, six Chairs of Oak, one stand or cupboard of Drawers, one Dressing Looking Glass.

In the Little room over the Parlour :

One wainscott Chest, Four Buffetts Leather Covered, One Desk.

In the Great Room :

One oval Round Table, a Chest of Drawers and a Large Looking Glass over it, Seven rush-bottomed Chairs, Two Rushia Leather Chairs.

In my room over the House :

One Buroe, one Cloaths Press, One Chest before it, One Round Table, One Elbow Chair Rush-bottomed, One Rushia Leather Chair, One Buffett Leather Covered, One Dressing Looking Glass, One Desk near the Bed.

In the New Room :

One Table with a Drawer at each end.

In the Closet over the Entry [Hallan] :

One Table with a cupboard under the Leaf.

In the Low Loft [The hinds' chamber]:

Two meal Chests, One malt Chest.

In the little Room adjoining:

One Little Chest with School books  
in it.

In the Kitching:

One meal Chest, One Long Table and  
two Forms, One Dish Board, One  
Still, three Kettles, Brass Pott, Iron  
Pott and Panns.

In the Buttery:

Six oak Chairs, Two Leather Chairs,  
One Buffett Leather Covered.

In the Skullery:

One Cupboard, Two stone Tables.

In the Milkhouse:

The shelves and stone Tables.

In the Cellar:

One Stone Table, Beef Tubb and  
Guilefatt. [Vat for salting meat.]

In the Miln Loft:

Two great Arks, One Chest, a malt-  
kiln and Ark under it.

In the Buttery:

Pewter Dishes, thirty-two, two Salvers,

two great Flaggons, One Quart,  
three great pewter Candlesticks, Four  
Brass Candlesticks and two brass  
boxes or caces and snuffers.

There is a list of bedding — “courser,”  
hoggaback, diaper, fine linen and old flaxen.

There are also table cloths, and napkins  
of various degrees of fineness.

The family plate includes Silver spoons,  
brandy cup, sugar or pepper box, tankards.  
“My China ware” ends the list.





**CHAPTER IV.**  
**THE STATESMAN'S DAILY LIFE.**



## CHAPTER IV.

### THE STATESMAN'S DAILY LIFE.

PROBABLY the manner of life of the Troutbeck statesman is not so very different to-day from what it was a hundred years ago. A good many comforts and conveniences, of which we are too often forgetful, have been introduced which make life easier than it was. The people are better educated, better fed, better clothed, better housed ; travelling is no longer beset with hardships, and sanitary conditions are vastly improved. But in the main the Westmorland farmer lives the same life as his forefathers did. He tends his flock of Herdwick sheep on the fells, and reaps a scanty crop of oats. Beyond a few changes such as the allotment of the unenclosed pastures among the farms which participated in the right, the methods of farming have changed very little.

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The inventory of John Rowlandson, of Troutbeck, made in 1569, gives us an idea of the possessions of the Westmorland farmer at that date. It runs as follows :—<sup>1</sup>

Inventorium omnium bonorum Johannis Rolandson, parochiæ Wynandermer; factum 28 die Marcii et appreciatum per nos Henricium Borwick, Anthonium Cockson, Anthonium Borwicke et Milonem Birkhead, juratos eodem die, anno Domini 1569, per me Johannem Dixon curatam ibidem.

Imprimis, one mare and a twynterr

stagge [two year old horse] ... XXXIII<sup>s</sup> IIII<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> In transcribing the following extracts from old MSS. it has not been thought necessary to affect a greater appearance of antiquity, after the manner of the owner of "Ye Olde Shoppe," by reproducing in print the old usage of a Y-shaped sign for the letters *th*.

Similarly, the printing of an initial *ff* has been avoided: many of the letters used in the handwriting of two hundred years ago differed from the common form of to-day, and it chanced that the old capital *F* resembled two small *f*'s joined together. Mr. *ff*ield and Mr. *ff*isher *wrote* their names with the semblance of two small *f*'s, but when they appeared in print they were Mr. Field and Mr. Fisher.

II kye and a gwye [cows and a " why " or heifer] ... ..	III <sup>l</sup>
Haye & strawe ... ..	III <sup>s</sup>
Fowrtie sheippe & one ... ..	VI <sup>s</sup> IX <sup>s</sup> X <sup>d</sup>
In haverr and in beege [oats and barley] ... ..	XXIII <sup>s</sup>
VII pecks of malte ... ..	V <sup>s</sup> II <sup>d</sup>
one almerye [chest] ... ..	XII <sup>s</sup>
A brass pot, three pans & v puder dublers [pewter plates] ...	VIII <sup>s</sup> IIII <sup>d</sup>
Three tree dublerrs, fower dysshes & a ladle ... ..	II <sup>d</sup>
II stands, [tub for brewing] three collecks, [pails] a churne & II lytle bassyns ... ..	XVIII <sup>d</sup>
A girdle, a brandrett, [see page 38] a bottel & a pare of tongs ...	II <sup>s</sup> V <sup>d</sup>
A pick & a hoisse [utensil in which oat bread was kept] & a pare of sheirs... ..	VI <sup>d</sup>
A pare of studles and a pare of woell combs ... ..	XXII <sup>d</sup>
A old knoppe [tub] and a gweell [gyle, tub for pickling meat] ...	VI <sup>d</sup>
Three weights, a ceiffe, two syckles & two wymbles [gimlets] ...	VI <sup>d</sup>
Two axes, a hacke and a breare crooke [briar crook for cutting brambles] ... ..	XII <sup>d</sup>
In hempe, a carr [cart] collecks & two pare of trusse roipes ...	II <sup>s</sup> III <sup>d</sup>
A rakinge crocke, [rattan crook,	

see page 32] a chairre III <sup>o</sup>	
stoilles & a stee [step ladder]	
and a barrow ... ..	XIX <sup>d</sup> .
A saddle, a wantowe, [girth for a pack-horse] a brydle and a halter ... ..	XII <sup>d</sup> .
A lead [pan] a hoipe [measure], a peate spade and II pare of traces	XI <sup>d</sup> .
A sallte tubbe with sallte in it ...	II <sup>d</sup> .
A torthwythie, a torne bollte [swivel with a hook] & a peate sledd ... ..	VIII <sup>d</sup> .
A chiste, an arccke, two bourds and a troghe ... ..	V <sup>s</sup> . VII <sup>d</sup> .
Two seecks, five poecks a hambre & a sworde ... ..	III <sup>s</sup> . I <sup>d</sup> .
A peece of kelter [coarse cloth] and yearne ... ..	V <sup>s</sup> . VIII <sup>d</sup> .
A peece of gwyett [white] cloith and two bedds ... ..	II <sup>s</sup> .
II jackets, three dubleitts, two pare of hoise & II hats, three jerkings, shoisse & bowtts ...	XXIII <sup>s</sup> .
Three packe cloiths, two sheitts & two blanketts ... ..	VII <sup>s</sup> .
A purse, a bellt, a knyeffe and II horse shois ... ..	VI <sup>d</sup> .
A parre of bowte shanks <sup>III</sup> haver grotes <sup>VI</sup> [crushed oats]	
In fleshe <sup>XVI<sup>d</sup></sup> . In lathe <sup>XII<sup>d</sup></sup> . [barn]	
Badon Borwick wif ... ..	X <sup>s</sup> .
The some XVII li XI <sup>s</sup> . X <sup>d</sup> .	

The daily occupations of the women have perhaps changed more than those of the men, since a fell-side home does not now, as it once did, supply nearly all its own needs.

Then, as now, hardly any grain was grown in Lakeland, except oats and a little barley. Bread of fine wheat was baked only for special occasions; the staple food of the people was the oat-bread baked on the girdle, a diet which made bone and sinew, but which according to an old writer "led to inflammatory diseases," especially as garden vegetables were little known, with the exception of onions and a few savoury herbs used in broth.

A mess made of the tender leaves of the Alpine bistort, called in Westmorland "Easter-ledges," and groats mixed with a few young nettles was accounted a great delicacy to eat with veal in spring. To this mixture were added the leaves of the Great Bell flower and a few blades of chives, all boiled together in a linen bag with the meat.

Fish, at any rate in places where salmon

was plentiful, was not much appreciated. Apprentices at Kendal stipulated in their indentures that they should not be required to dine on this or any other fish more than three times a week.

Fresh beef and mutton were luxuries of the summer months, for the fat oxen were killed off in the autumn, since no green fodder was to be obtained in the winter, and prepared provender such as oil-cake was then unknown. The food at this time of the year consisted chiefly of dried and salted beef and mutton and bacon.

Poultry and geese were kept in pens till about the end of February, and at Christmas pies were baked, made of flour and containing meat, generally goose or mutton, or sweetmeats. These pies lasted for a month or six weeks. In summer the provisions consisted of boiled meat and of dairy produce.

Ale was brewed at home in the "down-house," where a malt mill was always to be found.

Nothing affords a better illustration of the



house-keeping of other times than the extracts which may be made from an old account book.

The items contained in a Troutbeck diary begun in 1721 are very interesting from this point of view.

Thus we find under the date of November 28th, 1721, the item :—

“ Salt 12 stones of Rob. Halhead at 14d. 14<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>  
and again :

rober [December] 14. A buttack of Beef	
at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. a pound and 2 lb. taken off	
before hung ... ..	5 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup>
Another Buttack of Joe Suart 28 lb.	
at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. taken off...	5 <sup>s</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup>
24. A Buttack of Beef of Jos. Suart	
at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ... ..	5 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup>

The large quantity of salt which was required was to be used for salting down the beef for winter use.

On the next page we find the good housewife's preparations for the jollifications at Christmas.

rober 14. Wheat floor 1 peck ... ..	3 0
Currants and Raissins 4 lb.	
of Ashton ... ..	2 0
	G 2

rober 14.	Nutmegs 1 oz. ... ..	9
	Aniseed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ... ..	3
	A sugar loaf 5 lb. at $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. ...	3 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Figs 1 lb. ... ..	4
	Prunes 1 lb. ... ..	4
	Treackle 3 lbs. ... ..	7
	Brown sugar 4 lbs. at 5d. ...	1 8
	Brown Naturall Sugar 6 lb. at $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. ... ..	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Powdered Sugar 6 lb. at 7d....	3 6
rober 19.	Gingerbread 4 lbs. ... ..	1 0
	To Peggy for Butter 4 lb. ...	1 0
rober 19.	A Cheese sent to Ben: per Mr. Speight ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup>
„ 21.	Brandy 2 gallons and $\frac{1}{2}$ at 6s. To Mr. Alderman Dodgson for 2 gallons of Rum ...	15 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> 11 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup>
Dec. 22.	Of Mary Knott 5 pints of Cherry Brandy ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup>
	Spirit of Wine a pint ... ..	9 <sup>d</sup>
	A wax candle 1 lb. weight ...	2 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup>
	Frankinsence... ..	2 <sup>d</sup>

Thin half fed veal was a delicacy in the spring. To the poor food eaten during the winter months, and the low-lying situations of many of the houses in the rainy region may be ascribed the agues which were so prevalent, especially in spring. How prevalent agues were is evident to anyone who

peruses a collection of old letters. Note also the many charms for the cure of agues, such as the one quoted on page 130. The introduction of the potato was a great boon, so perhaps was the cheapening of wheaten bread, although it would be well now if more porridge and oat-bread were eaten. Tea, again, is quite a recent innovation.

Taking everything into consideration it is probable that the physique of the Border counties is considerably better than it was a hundred and fifty years ago. Westmorland can boast of a lower death rate than any other county, probably because it contains one of the most purely rural populations, and Kendal, its most considerable place, is too small to have the disadvantages of a densely populated town. The men of the Borders are a big-boned race; in fact, length of limb is their most striking characteristic. The prevailing type has blue or grey eyes, rather deep set, but it is not unusual to come across a swarthy strain, which makes one suspect some foreign admixture.

Any theory, however, which seeks to

explain the appearance of these olive-skinned dalesmen must be regarded with suspicion.

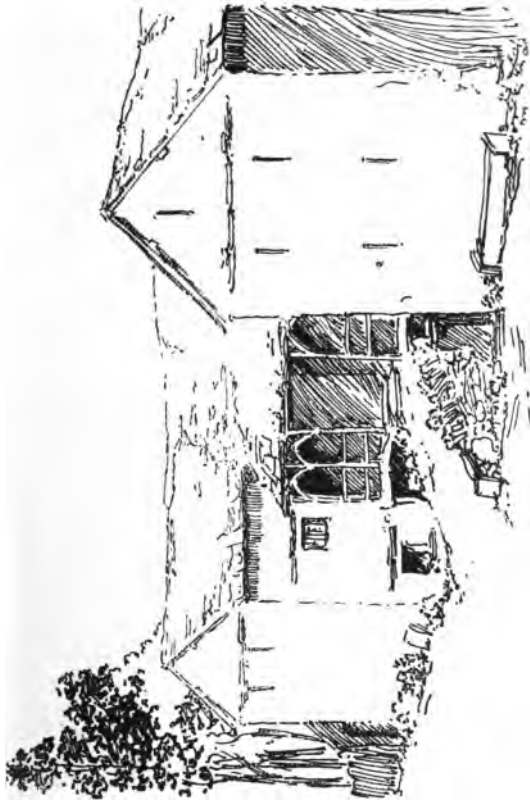
It is always tempting to talk glibly of an infusion of Spanish blood, but when one remembers the frequent inter-marriages which must have taken place, it is difficult to see how a racial characteristic can have been perpetuated for several centuries.

To discuss the extent to which the Celtic race amalgamated with their conquerors is to venture on debatable ground.

The kingdom of Strathclyde was the last stronghold in England of the Celt, but the place-names, with the exception of a few prominent landmarks, are of Scandinavian origin, and the writer has never been able to trace any Celtic elements in the characteristics of the inhabitants of this region. They are said to be of Norwegian, not Danish, descent.

The most noteworthy immigration was that of the Flemings in the fourteenth century, and "Fleming" is still a very common surname in the neighbourhood of Kendal.

The women of Westmorland generally



OLD BARN AT TOWN-END C<sup>B</sup>E 1666.



have the blue or grey eyes which have been noticed in regard to the men. Sometimes one sees a type of beauty which seems more common here than elsewhere—grey eyes, a complexion of extreme delicacy, too delicate for an altogether robust appearance, and brown hair.

The Fell people seem to live to a great age. One Margaret Longmire is commonly supposed to have lived to be 103 years old, and even sceptics in such matters seem disinclined to assail the statement. At all events octogenarians are not uncommon in Troutbeck, and the writer has come across more than one instance in his perusal of the parish registers of an octogenarian couple.

The clothing of the family was almost entirely home-made in the old days. The wool of the Herdwick sheep supplied the raw material which was carded by both the men and the women.

The yarn was spun in very early times by spindle and whorl, and later on the spinning wheel by the wives and daughters of the statesmen.

The weaving was done at home on a hand loom, or perhaps by the village weavers, and the cloth made into suits of cloth on the farm by the itinerant tailors, who travelled from house to house for this purpose. "Troutbeck tailors" made clothes for Sir Daniel Fleming of Rydal in the seventeenth century.

The grey coats of Westmorland were always a feature of this country. The wool of the black sheep slightly mixed with blue and red produced the cloth of the favourite colour. A mixture of black and white was also worn, termed self grey or duffel. It was, of course, undyed. The coats and knee breeches of the men were ornamented with brass buttons. The stockings were of blue or grey home-spun, the heels smeared with pitch to retard their wearing to holes in the clogs. These clogs were made of uncurried leather with wooden soles and were lined with straw for warmth.

The shirt was of "harden" cloth, made of the finest part of hemp or the coarsest part of flax, and both these plants were grown



for the use of the family on almost every farm in the county. There were flax mills at one time at Troutbeck Bridge, where the old bobbin mills have been succeeded by the Electricity Works.

Itinerant hacklers and ropers went their annual rounds from house to house. The hemp ridge in many fields, we are told, bears its name after its use has been forgotten. The women's clothing was made of the finer sorts of the native wool, woven into a kind of serge, and like the men's, made up by the itinerant tailor at the customer's own house.

The following extracts from an old Troutbeck account book are instructive with regard to the statesman's expenditure on dress for himself and his womenkind :—

1722.	Feb. 9.	A pair of stockings for my wife ... ..	1 <sup>s</sup> 5 <sup>d</sup> .
		A straw Hatt for my wife... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
		A Shagg Petticoat for my wife ... ..	4 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
	May 5.	A muslin apron for Bridgett ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 9 <sup>d</sup> .

May 12.	Stockings a pair for Mary ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup>
November 23.	To Cooper for making my sheepskin breeches ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup>
8ber 28.	To Geo. Fell for making my son Christo: a coat ... ..	4 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup>
Sept. 10.	To Mr. Ferrys for making 14 yards of plush of my own wooll 21 lbs. at 2s. 2d. a yard ...	£1 10 0
„ 24.	For dying the said plush ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup>
Feb. 17.	Holland, 11 yards and $\frac{1}{2}$ at 1s. 4d. of Sam: Corser, Scotchman <sup>1</sup>	15 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup>
May 30.	Irish Linen of Mr. Elliott 4 yards at 16d. for myself a shirt ...	5 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup>
9ber 25.	Kersey 4 yards and a $\frac{1}{2}$ at 16d. of Jammy Warriner ... ..	6 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup>
July 7.	Kirkby Harden 6 yards for aprons ... ..	4 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Scotchman" in the north to-day = "pedlar," irrespective of his actual nationality, so called from the number of Scotch pedlars who came into England.

Compare the use of the German word Schott (Scot) meaning a pedlar or itinerant friar.

April 27.	3 grey Handkerchfs of Ruth Winter ...	3 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
rober 19.	Flannel 4 yards ...	4 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
April 24.	Gloves a pair... ..	8 <sup>d</sup> .
Jly 22nd.	Seemed stocking a pair	3 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
Sept. 25.	Brass Buttons for Ned Brathwt: 3 doz. at 8d.	2 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
March 11.	a fine Hatt ... ..	10 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
April 18.	a Hatt for son Geo. of Lancaster ... ..	4 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .
1724. Aug. 14.	A Wig for son Christo	15 <sup>s</sup> 0 <sup>d</sup> .
June 24.	To Thos. Walker for making 3 wiggs 1 for myself, 1 for Geo: and 1 for Richard ...	16 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .
Aug. 8.	a worsted cap [to wear when the wig was not worn] for myself	1 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .
1728. Nov. 15.	To Geo: Shoomaker for shooes for myself	6 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .
	My wife shooes a pair ... ..	2 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .
	son Christo: boots soled ... ..	1 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> .
July 22.	Buckles 3 pair at Kendal	1 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> .

Sheep play so important a part in a fell-side village that the "Herdwick" can hardly be passed by without notice in this little account of Troutbeck.

"Herdwick" is the name given to the

sheep peculiar to the mountainous portions of Cumberland and Westmorland, and on the fells they still remain the typical Westmorland sheep, although on the low-lying pastures you will find more generally a hybrid strain—a half breed from the Border—Leicester, Shropshire, Scotch, “Rough sheep,” or the blue-faced Wensleydales. The Herdwick is a hardy sheep; it can find pastures where the black-faced sheep of the Highlands will starve; it can face exposures that no other breed can survive. No stone wall will keep it within bounds, for it can jump an extraordinary height, but it clings to its own “heaf” or tract of pasture on the unenclosed fells.

Mr. Swainson Cowper has shown conclusively that the name “Herdwick” is not properly that of a variety of sheep, but is an old word for a sheep farm. We read of “Herdwyks and Sheepecots” in the sixteenth century.

There is no evidence in support of the story, a most improbable one, that the sheep are descendants of some animals which

drifted ashore from one of the wrecks of the Spanish Armada, nor is there any reason to suppose, as has been sometimes asserted, that this strain was introduced into this country by the early Scandinavian settlers.

Is it not quite possible that this breed is the result of a gradual process of evolution, accommodating itself to meet the necessities of existence on the exposed fells ?

It is admitted that attempts to improve the quality of the sheep lead to the loss of its peculiar characteristics.

In appearance the Herdwick ewe is not striking. It is very small and its wool is so scanty that it looks more like hair. The wool is naturally of very little value, so little in fact in recent years that it has not paid farmers to shear their Herdwicks, and it has been done only for the sake of the animal. The ram, however, with his great curling horns and stout white legs, is a fine-looking fellow, especially when decked out for a show.

The mutton, like that of all mountain sheep, is excellent.

A whole chapter might be written of the

lore connected with the sheep, the "smit" or brand on the animal's side, and the marks cut in the ear. As might be expected, since this is the kind of word which survives, the terms used in connection with sheep carry us back to remote times and are in many cases identical with those used in Norway to-day.

Formerly wool was not sold in the lump as it is now, but in small quantities to different persons for spinning.

Witness the following extracts from the account book previously quoted.

1722. Feb. 16. Old Peggy—2 stone wooll 10<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>

1724. March 17. to Edw. Dixon 2 stone  
wool at           ...       ... 4<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>

May 4. Delivered to Peggy 1 stone  
11 pounds of Broken  
Wooll to work for  
Blanketting and Horse  
Cloths.

30. To Jonathan Ellaray 1  
stone wooll   ...       ... 4<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>

Having discussed the surroundings of the statesman, a little should be said of the condition of the humbler folk of the village.

Farm labourers were hired, as they are now, at the annual "hirings" at Kendal. The rates of wages and the hours of work were fixed, at one time, by the Justices of the Peace, in accordance with an Act made in the fifth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The rates were as follows :

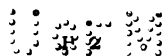
			£	s.	d.
Chief hind by the year	...	...	2	6	8
Inferior hind	...	...	1	6	8
Miller	...	...	1	3	4
Chief maid servant...	...	...	0	18	0
Another maid servant	...	...	0	14	0
A boy for driving the plough	...	...	0	13	4

In the same year it was ordered "That all Artificers and labourers being hired for wages by the day or week shall, betwixt the middest of the moneths of March and September, be and continue at their work at or before five of the clock in the morning, and continue at work, and not depart until betwixt seven and eight at night, except it be in the time of breakfast, dinner or drinking [the word for "luncheon" still used in Troutbeck], the which times at the most not to exceed above two hours and a half in the

day, that is to say, at every drinking one halfe hour, for his dinner an houre, and for his sleep when he is allowed to sleep the which is from the middest of May to the middest of August half an houre at the most, and at every breakfast one halfe hour. And all the said Artificers and labourers between the middest of September and the middest of March shall be and continue at their work from the spring of the day in the morning untill the night of the same day, except it be in the time afore appointed for breakfast and dinner, upon paine to loss and forfeit *1d.* for every houre's absence to be deducted and defaulted out of his wages that should so offend."



CHAPTER V.  
SPORTS AND PASTIMES.



1871

## CHAPTER V.

### SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

WRESTLING and hunting are the chief sports of the Westmorland statesman to-day, as they have been in the past, and Troutbeck men have not been behind their neighbours in the wrestling ring or in the chase.

Adam Walker, one of the most celebrated wrestlers in the "Cumberland and Westmorland" style, was a Troutbeck man, and till his death, a few years ago, one of the judges at the classic sports at Grasmere.

There are some curious local customs in connection with hunting—by no means a similar sport in these mountain regions to the science as understood in the Shires. In the first place, the chase must necessarily be followed on foot, as Reynard almost invariably takes his pursuers straight away to the

hills. Mountaineering in the depth of winter is a very different thing to exploring the fells in the summer months, so that fox-hunting involves considerable hardships and frequent peril of life and limb. A blinding snow-storm, precipices of many hundred feet, and the possibility of being lost all night on the mountain side, are incidents which have to be reckoned with. Sometimes it is necessary to lift the hounds one by one up a steep crag, and it is not unusual for the dogs to miss their footing on a ledge of a dangerous precipice and to be dashed to pieces on the rocks below.

The hunters sometimes see strange sights. For instance, a few years ago one of the Coniston foxhounds pursued a fox along a narrow ledge of rock; the fox could go no further, but it contrived to dash past the hound, leaving one ear in the hound's mouth.

Moreover, the old-fashioned plan of hunting the cold drag of the fox is still followed in the Lake Country. That is to say, instead of going in search of the

quarry about mid-day to some covert or gorse patch, the method is to start at day-break to find the scent of Reynard as he has returned to his lair after his marauding expedition during the night. When hounds hit the drag, it is slowly worked out till the fox is tracked to his earth; by the aid of terriers he is "unkennelled," and then the pack streams away, and it is a fleet foot which will keep pace with them.

In a hilly country the drag usually takes the hunters straight up a mountain side to the "earth among the rocks," and as the field have usually climbed to a very considerable height before the fox is unkennelled, it is often possible to obtain a view of the chase by the careful selection of a point of 'vantage, and sometimes to be in at the death; but very frequently the hounds kill their fox and straggle home late at night, or even some days later.

According to an old custom in Troutbeck, the principal hunting fixture was an annual meeting known as "The Mayor's Hunt," an occasion which happily combined a day's

sport with a convivial meeting in the evening, provided at the charges of the "mayor"—not a civic functionary, but an elected leader of the hunt.

The "mayor" must be some statesman of substance, a good fellow and a good sportsman, and his successor was elected with due formality by the votes of the company who met to enjoy the evening's hospitality.

Those of the fair sex who are eager to assert their rights will be gratified to learn that their sex was not disqualified for this honour, for once a Mrs. Backhouse, a keen sportswoman, was elected mayoress, and worthily upheld the traditions of the office. These meetings were frequently held at Troutbeck Bridge, and there are records from 1778 of the assemblies at the Black Cock Inn, kept by John Camm.

It is now about seventy years since any foxhounds were kept in Troutbeck. Previous to that time a few couple were kept in the village in the old-fashioned way, as the Eskdale pack are kept now, quartered upon various householders.

Our ancestors, whatever we may think to-day, preferred the chase of the hare to that of the fox. It was a nobler sport, they thought, to work out the windings of the hare than to follow the "stinking scent" of Reynard, and so the hounds which were kept at Townend in the eighteenth century were harriers, not foxhounds. The pack consisted of about ten couple. The date when it was first started is not known. A couple of hounds were bought on October 27th, 1776, from "Mr. Wilson, of Cartmel, at a cost of 15s. *od.*," and next month we find the entry: "pd. for Hound doggs 3*l.* for carriage 3*s.* other expenses at Kendal 1*s.* 7*d.*" Presumably the £3 would represent four couple, so that six couple altogether were purchased in the autumn of 1776, but these may have been to add fresh blood to an old pack.

As there are now no hounds kept in the valley, Troutbeck hunters have to depend on the visits of Bowman with the Ullswater hounds, or on a run with Harry Lancaster and the Coniston pack, which are kennelled

at Ambleside, or with the Windermere Harriers.

“The Shepherds’ Meeting” at the Kirkstone Pass, is still an important event for the Troutbeck sportsman. The shepherds assemble here bringing with them any stray sheep which have been found and which have been unclaimed, so that they may be recognised by their rightful owners. The meeting is an excuse for two or three days’ hunting, and a pack of foxhounds and the Windermere Harriers both meet at the head of the pass and offer a choice of sport to those who have attended the meeting.

Since the common pastures were divided into “allotments,” about 1840, these shepherds’ meetings have been shorn of much of their glory. Formerly these gatherings were held on High Street, one of the peaks of the range of hills which bounds the valley, and hither were brought all the flocks which had been turned out on the surrounding fells. As no walls divided the fells, which were common to many tenements, it was necessary to have an annual sorting of



the flocks, and for this purpose the sheep were all driven on to the summit of High Street.

At the conclusion of this business the dalesmen made merry, and took part in contests of running, leaping, and wrestling, as well as joining in the hunt which always took place at this season.

Clarke in his "Survey" in 1789 tells of this meeting on High Street, which was held on the 10th of July. At one of these hunts a man named Dixon fell from Blea Water Crag, about 300 feet high, and miraculously broke no bones, although terribly bruised, for he struck several times against the rock and so checked his fall. When he came to the ground he scrambled on to his knees, cried out, "Lads t' fox is gane out at hee end; lig t' dogs and I'll come syun" and then fell down insensible.

No sport was pursued with greater zest, till it was prohibited by law, than "cocking," an amusement in which high and low took part.

There are accounts of cock-fighting at

Troutbeck as early as 1661, and these tournaments were held with great formality, the conditions being carefully drawn up and agreed upon beforehand. On Easter Monday, March 31st, 1766, there was a great gathering at High Green.

“A true list of the Cocks together with their weights and owners’ names which are entered to Fight this day for the Subscript<sup>n</sup> Money at Thomas Benson at High Green in Troutbeck” was very neatly and carefully written out. The cocks fought in heats, and in the first round was Geo. Tyson’s Red Cock, 4 lbs. 11 oz., against Wm. Ashbarrow’s Red Cock, 4 lbs. 9 oz. A cross marked against the latter bird shows that George Tyson’s cock was victorious.

A few years later Mr. George Tyson himself evidently organised a cock-fight.

“The cocks entered to fight in the Welsh main at Geo. Tyson’s in Troutbeck for a silver watch, April 4th, 1771,” is the title of several beautifully written sheets. The watch was valued at £3 16s. od., to

which was added the "Landlord's gift,"  
5s. *od.*

The following were the conditions :

	£	s.	d.
The 8 loosing Cocks the 2nd time			
over to have ... ..	0	12	0
The 4 loosing Cocks the third time			
over to have 2s. 6 <i>d.</i> each ...	0	10	0
The 2 fourth time 5s. <i>od.</i> each ...	0	10	0
The last loosing Cock ... ..	0	10	0
The winning Cock ... ..	1	19	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	01	0

" The winner to choose Watch or Money."

Then comes a list of the thirty-two cocks, owner's name, description of the bird and its weight. Next comes a list of the birds as drawn for the first round, and a list—"second time over—Losing Cocks 1s. 6*d.* each.

	lb.	oz.
23. Mr. John Wilson's × Grey Hawk		
Beak, &c. ... ..	3	8
14. John Strickland, Esq., Grey Yel-		
low Leggs, &c.... ...	3	13
15. John Tyson's Ging <sup>r</sup> Breast Club		
back toes ... ..	3	14
13. Will <sup>m</sup> Dawson's × Red, white		
Leggs scab'd Toe × ... ..	3	15 "

and so on, the crosses denoting the losing birds.

Strutt, writing in 1801, in his "Sports and Pastimes of the People of England," says of the Welsh main that "it seems to be the abuse of modern times, and as a late judicious author justly says, 'a disgrace to us as Englishmen.'" The conditions are thus described.

"It consists of a certain number of pairs of cocks, suppose sixteen, which fight until one half of them are killed; the sixteen conquerors are pitted a second time in like manner, and half are slain; the eight survivors a third time, the four a fourth time, and the remaining two a fifth time, so that thirty-one cocks are inhumanly murdered for the sport and pleasures of the spectators."

It has been said, although we cannot vouch for the fact, that in the early years of the nineteenth century, the custom was continued here of cock-fighting at Shrove-tide, and that the school boys used to collect money under the patronage of the school-master for this sport.

In the eighteenth century, at any rate, it was customary at many schools in Westmorland for the master to give the scholars a prize for cock-fighting at Shrovetide or Easter, the master receiving a gratuity called the *cock-penny*. The sport was supposed to set an example of "gameness" and hardihood to the boys!

It seems from Fitzstephens' description of London in the reign of Henry II., quoted by Strutt, that it was then the custom for cock-fights to be held on Shrove Tuesday, under the superintendence of the master, in schools in the City, and that the custom survived in Scotland and the more remote parts of England till comparatively recent times.

Horse-racing, the oldest of our national pastimes, was not unknown to the inhabitants of the dales, unsuitable though they be for the galloping of horses.

Among the MSS. at Townend there is an agreement as to a horse race to be run at Calgarth, near Troutbeck Bridge, and races seem to have been held at Grasmere

in the seventeenth century. George Browne of Townend (1741—1804) attended the races at Kendal and even travelled as far as Lancaster for the sport, where he records in his diary that he cleared £5 or £6 besides his expenses, so that we fear that he was not only a betting man but also a successful one.

The race at Calgarth was arranged by "John Walton of Oston (Alston) Moore, Co. Cumberland, gent. and Rowland Cookson of Troutbeck Bridge Co. Westmorland, yeoman," to take place "within the domains of Caldgarth upon the twenty-fourth of June (1692) next ensuing the date hereof for the sum of Twenty pounds of Lawfull English money, viz. the sum of Tenn pounds each party. \* \* \* A gray mare of the said John Walton's being now in his possession and lately bought of Mr. Simpson of Penrith, and the mare which Rowland Cookson runs being a mare of William Whelpdall's now of Hawkshead in the County of Lancaster gent. called Blankett and gooing under the name of

Pickeren [Pickering?] mare. And to runn four miles or thereabouts starting at a stoop in a feild called little Broad feild and to runn to a stoop at the head of the said feild and soe to runn two tymes over to a stoop at Marsh feild foot and to Leave the stoop at little Broad feild head aforesaid," and so on.

A race at Grasmere is commemorated in some verses which are preserved in MS., probably in the handwriting of Christopher Birkett, of Troutbeck, and as they give an account of a neighbouring race-meeting they are perhaps worth quoting here.

The poem is styled :

"Verses upon a horse-race at Grasmire," and the writer begins with an invocation of "Pegasus, the flying horse."

He continues :

"To Grasmire did great crowds resort  
and flocked to see the horse course sport.  
old man nor child did never know  
a sight so like my Lord Mayor's show.  
greater than English day St. George's  
or when that Livery gowns fill Barges."

The proceedings were opened by the  
w.v.

prototype of the Bellman at the Grasmere  
 "Sports."

"And then came forth one of renowne  
 the chiefest spokesman of the Towne  
 with paper in hand. Silence quo he  
 and soe he gets him to the tree."  
 Then did he bring the prizes forth  
 which were to be rewards of worth  
 a flaggon of the newest fashion  
 a better was not in the nation.  
 A pewter Tumbler enameld rare  
 most fitting for to drink good Beare  
 a Bridle which would att a word  
 the Fury of fearce Coursers curb.  
 There is no reason to contemn um  
 they came from Tent of Agamemnon  
 there was none such at sack of Troy  
 Soe win and weare them now brave boys.  
 The people then with winged speed  
 into the place brought running steeds  
 who were much like unto a Bride  
 both necks and tails with Ribands tyde."

Then follows a description of the competing horses which are likened to the famous steeds of antiquity.

One jockey rode "as he had been George Castriot"; another as "one of Don Austria's Dragoon riders."



"The watch word given" the race began

"and for to use not many words  
you'd swear they were not horse but Birds."

After an exciting race, "The VENUS Bay the prizes wan," and the day ended with a jollification.

"Tumbler went round, healths to their friends,  
in mirth I left them; theres  
An End."

The music at such merry-makings was supplied by the fiddlers, who played at the "Fiddlers' Merry Nights," and who in Troutbeck used to visit the principal households on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, an old custom which has now passed away. The last of the Troutbeck fiddlers, old James Airey, has forsaken his art for the useful, if monotonous, occupation of stone-breaking, and now he sits by his heap of stones in Holbeck Lane.

In the long winter evenings it was customary for the neighbours to meet by some fire-side, assembling at each other's homes in turn. These gatherings were called "Rocking Nights," because the

womenkind were "ganging rocking," that is to say, they employed themselves with rock and spindle while they told tales and gossiped.

The assemblies of the old dames were known as "Ald Wife Hakes."

Surprising as it may sound, not only music but the drama, especially tragedy, flourished in Troutbeck, and many of the young statesmen of an earlier generation, William Birkett, Braithwaite Birkett, and their fellows were famous for their histrionic powers.

One of the stirring tragedies of "Ald Hoggart," the local poet and playwright, was acted on St. James's Day, 1693, the stage being erected in a field called Moss Gap, hard by the church, and the Troutbeck players travelled sometimes to neighbouring parishes, playing before Sir Daniel Fleming at Rydal Hall.

From Sir Daniel Fleming's account book we learn that on December 27th, 1661, he paid ten shillings "given to Troutbeck players for acting here 'The fair maid of



HIGH FOLD (*from the south*).



the West,'” and on December 28th, 1686, “Given to Troutbeck players, being little boyes—5s.”

From this it seems that Sir Daniel liked to have a play acted before him at Christmas time.

Christopher Birkett of Troutbeck has preserved for us in his Common-Place Book “a speech spoken at S<sup>r</sup> Daniel Flemmings in Christms the speaker Hospitality in one hand a Bowle of Beare in the other a Dish of Meat.”

These masquers or mummers went from house to house about Christmas time acting a very rude play, and at this time it is said that it was usual for them to challenge the company in each house to play them at cards.

At Kentmere there was another company of players which occasionally visited the adjacent valley, perhaps while the Troutbeck troupe were “touring” elsewhere! Generally the Troutbeck actors played the pieces composed for them by some local rhymmer, especially the compositions of Ald

Hoggart known as "play-jiggs," short dramas in verse, "the interest arising from the incidents of low rustic intrigue and sometimes terminating with a most extraordinary moral application."

Ald Hoggart himself seems to have taken part with his neighbours in these "jiggs," in which there were usually four or five characters.

The word "jig" is used by Shakspeare in the sense in which Hoggart used it.

A specimen of the dramatic art of the period is included in Christopher Birkett's collection. It appears to have no literary merits. The copy is headed :

A JIGG.

	Priest.
	Arthur.
Actors' names	Nan.
	her Mother.

*Enter ARTHUR :*

My masters this is a madly world  
 it irks me of my life  
 a suitor I have been seaven yeares  
 and yet I want a wife.

There are several pages of another play

in the same Common-Place Book. The title is not given, but the characters are Old Gripe, Pinch, a clown, a husband and a wife, and Sympkin, who describes himself in the opening lines :

“ My father is old and decreped  
my mother deceased of late  
and I am a youth thats respected  
possessed of a good estate.”

These performances were probably not unlike the rendering of “Pyramus and Thisbe” in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” but some of Hoggart’s tragedies seem to have required a more ambitious setting (see chap. viii.). The actors were not afraid to attempt the very height of tragedy, and actually gave “Hamlet” on December 29th, 1786,” “at Landlord Tom’s,” that is to say at the inn at Matthew Howe (p. 191).

Foremost of all the “Hamlet” company was one James Skilbeck, a tailor, of Troutbeck, not only a player but a playwright too, albeit his poesy has perished with him. His “Ghost” in Hamlet is a “creation” which

is still remembered in the dale, and one evening, after he had been supping with old Thomas Harrison, of "The Bought," the tragedian gave a representation of his most celebrated part. His art so moved the company that one of them resolved to "freeze the marrow in the bones" of the actor in turn. Slipping out by the back door the jester waylaid the player in the dark fields, which he must descend in order to reach the bridge which brought him home across the beck. Poor Skilbeck, not suspecting any ruse, betrayed the fearfulness from immemorial time associated with the tailor's craft, and fled for dear life.



**CHAPTER VI.**  
**OLD CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS.**



## CHAPTER VI.

### OLD CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS.

AT the dawn of the twentieth century Troutbeck folks are very much like other people. No doubt some forty or fifty years ago a fuller and more interesting chapter than this might have been written, for times have changed rapidly within the last few decades, and if the reader (whom we entreat to be lenient) would see what sort of chapter this should have been let him turn to the fascinating pages of "Forty Years in a Moorland Parish," where he may read of the manners and customs of a kindred people in the dales of North-East Yorkshire—manners and customs which Dr. Atkinson fortunately preserved for us in his note book before School Boards came to educate and refine the individuality out of our people, to spoil our dialect, to introduce the catch-words of

the Cockney, and to make our quiet valleys ring with the melody of the music hall. Think of the bathos of it ! The shepherd striding over the cloud-capped fells, alone with Nature and the eternal hills, singing as he gathers his bleating flocks, not some sweet song of Arcady, some ballad of bold Clym and William of Cloudeslee, but the unharmonious sentiment borrowed from the local pantomime, or the praise of urban beer and skittles !

And so we groan and sigh to think of times gone by, forgetting all the time that life has been made more smooth for us than it was for our fathers, forgetting that comfort was hardly found in the "house-place," where a man could not stand upright without hitting the rafters with his head, that the wide open chimney allowed the rain and the snow to pour down upon the hearth, and to bring down with it a shower of soot as well ; forgetting the days when men groped in the dark with flint and tinder, when a flickering rush-light was the only illumination of long winter nights ; unmindful that when

people are unlearned and credulous they are rude and cruel too. In short, if anyone find fault with the times in which he lives let him picture himself suffering from illness in the good old days, and the very thought of the remedies which he would have had to endure, mostly too nasty for repetition in these pages, will make him contented with his twentieth century lot.

There are many pitfalls and some temptations which beset him who would write of the superstitions and ancient customs of any rural community, unless he can enter into the inner life of its members. On the one hand his curiosity will be resented by the country folk, and his inquiries baffled by their natural reserve. This is especially the case with north-country people, never very communicative to a stranger, who are suspicious of interrogation and ashamed of acknowledging a belief in the supernatural, which might expose them to ridicule.

On the other hand the investigator is likely to be the prey of any garrulous old villager who is led on by seeing his rather

untrustworthy gossip eagerly swallowed by the wondering stranger ; and a fluent habitué of the tap-room may be quite willing to stretch a point to gratify his hearer, especially if he can line his own pocket by answering the suggestive inquiries of the folk-lore student in the way that seems to give most satisfaction to his interlocutor.

In fact an author who about thirty years ago wrote with some learning on the superstitions of these Westmorland people, comparing them with similar beliefs of other localities, is said to have been "stuffed" (to use the expressive phrase of my informant) by an old dame who was only too ready to adapt her reminiscences to suit the theories which were expounded to her.

Troutbeck people resent the imputation that they are more credulous or more behind the times than their neighbours, and have expressed themselves vigorously to that effect in the columns of the *Westmorland Gazette*, so that under the circumstances it seems well to leave this delicate subject alone and confess that, with one exception, there is

nothing now known in the valley of any superstitious practices or mystical ceremonial.

Two centuries ago, no doubt, it was otherwise, and Troutbeck people believed in witches, buried calves alive, trusted the "Wise Man," were helped by "Hobthrush," and dreaded "dobbies," like their neighbours. But nowadays we may safely say that calf-burial, witch-hunting and the like are cruel relics of superstition which have been unknown in Troutbeck for several generations.

What the beliefs of Troutbeck people were two hundred years ago may be learnt by dipping into the Common-Place Book of Christopher Birkett, of Troutbeck. There we may read of the ceremonies necessary to discover a witch. "If they be chattell that are bewitched, Take some of the hair of every one of them and mix the haire in faire watter, or wet it well," then you must "lay it under a Tile, set a Trivet over the Tile, make a lusty fire, turn your Tile oft upon the haire, and stirr upp the haire ever and anon, after you have done this by the space

of a quarter-of-an-hour let the fire alone, and when the ashes are cold, bury them in the ground toward that quarter of heaven where the suspected witch lives." The remedies against witchcraft are followed by a "Remedy for a Feavour or an Ague" to be worn by the patient. It runs as follows : "When Jesus did see the Crosse whereon his body should be crucified, his body did shake. The Jews did aske him if he had an Ague. He answered and said whosoever keepeth this in mind or in writing shall never be troubled with an Ague nor a feavour soe Lord help thy servants, they that put their trust in thee."

Our forefathers knew of charms which would protect not only the health but even the property of the possessor, and one of them is preserved here. Unfortunately some of the words of the Latin couplet are very difficult to decipher, so, as its efficacy would no doubt be destroyed by any error in the wording, we will omit the lines.

Below is written : "If one have his house broken and Goods taken, and knowes not



with whom, let him cut a peece of paper in the like form above marked, write those words thereon as above written, wrap up the Paper and prick several holes into it with a needle or pin, bind it about with a threed and hang it in the rattencrook, but so that it does not burne, And it may come to discover the Thiefe by being pricked in his Flesh."

On the next page of the book there is a still more valuable charm. Seven lines radiate from the centre of a circle; at the extremity of each line is a mysterious figure—one like a Greek  $\pi$ , another like a  $\Phi$ , another like an S reversed.

Below are a number of mystical words joined together by crosses.

We are informed that : " Joseph of Arima-thea did find this writing upon the wounds of the side of Christ written with God's finger when the body was taken away from the Crosse. And whosoever shall carry this writing about with him shall not dye any evil death, if he believe in Christ, And in all perplexities he shall be delivered, neither let him feare any danger at all."

Some of the medical prescriptions contained in the same book are more in the nature of superstitious observances than of any rational remedy. Here is a specimen :

It is good for a child's teeth to "rub the teeth with the brains of an Hen, or let a Horse breathe into the Child's Mouth twice a day, which may prevent convulsive fits."

It seems more probable that the child would have convulsive fits on the spot !

The practice of lighting the Needfire as an antidote to the cattle distemper is the solitary instance of superstitious belief which is actually remembered and spoken of in Troutbeck to-day.

There is no doubt at all that many of the farmers of this neighbourhood believed in the efficacy of needfire, and that the purifying flames were kindled in the first half of the nineteenth century—1851 is the last recorded date. This belief is of immemorial antiquity, and is common to many peoples, especially to the Scandinavian races, amongst whom it is said to have been accepted till a comparatively recent date.

The flame must be kindled by friction, generally by two pieces of wood, but other methods of friction are admissible.

It must be kindled out of doors, and some say that other fires must first be extinguished. The cattle were driven through the fire and smoke, and according to some accounts damp fuel was laid on the flames in order that the cattle might be well fumigated in passing through.

Among every people the ceremonies connected with a funeral seem to have been designed rather to solace the survivors than to mark their grief for the loss of the deceased. Feasting has always been associated with a burial, and the obsequies of a Troutbeck statesman in the old days formed no exception to the rule. Among the MSS. at Townend are many lists of friends "bidden" to the funerals of various members of the family, and also lists of expenses connected with their entertainment which testify to the hospitality of the surviving members of the family. It was the custom for the burial to take place, at the latest, on the

third day after death, and it was necessary for each follower to be "bidden" to the funeral; no one would attend a funeral as a mark of respect unless expressly invited to do so.

The numbers of those bidden were often very large, and they came from considerable distances to Troutbeck—from Kendal, Rydal, Patterdale, Cartmel Fell, from Sawrey, from Hawkshead, and from Staveley, and all the places round. Benjamin Browne invited two hundred and seventy-one guests to his wife's funeral; and there were two hundred and fifty-eight at his own in 1748.

Troutbeck people were very particular to keep to their own "corpse way," the accustomed way from their house to the church, and it would have been thought ill-omened if the coffin had been borne along any other route. These "corpse-ways" were sometimes matters of dispute, and it is on record that once a fence had to be removed to make way for a funeral procession passing along its "corpse-way" which had been established by ancient custom through certain fields. The church bell was tolled



GALLERY AT LOW FOLD.



unceasingly from the death till the interment, and according to the number of tolls of the "passing bell" it was known to all whether the deceased was a man, woman, or child. The number of tolls varied in different places; in Troutbeck the bell tolled nine times and then a pause for a man, six times for a woman, and three times for a child. This practice was kept up in Troutbeck till the year 1846.

Before the funeral, the housewife baked what was known as "arval bread," that is to say, a little bun to be given to each guest in the open air, not to be eaten there and then, but to be taken home.

In the Townend accounts we find mention of arval cheese for the same purpose.

Arval bread was given for the last time in Troutbeck at the funeral of Elizabeth Longmire, of the Cragg, who died in 1834, at the age of eighty-seven.

Arval is an old word for funeral.

On these occasions a large table was set out, spread with cheese, wheat bread and oat-cake. Ale, cold or warm according to

the season of the year, was served round to each of the company.

Below are some extracts from the Town-end MSS. which give an idea of the expenditure and of the fare provided at a funeral in the early eighteenth century.

January 16. anno domi. (1702).

The charges of my dear Father George Browne, Senr. his Funerall.

Imprimis	Bread 16 doz. at 14 to the		
from	dozen dealt whole loaves	00	16 00
Kendall.	Mr. Robert Wilson arvall		
	cheese 78 lbs. at 2d. $\frac{1}{2}$	00	14 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr. Jos. Simpstone	a winding sheet		
	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds. fine broad flannell at 20d.		
	Black and White Worstedd 3d. ...	00	9 5
Tobacco 1 lb. ...	... ..	00	1 6
			<hr/>
		02	01 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
			<hr/>
To Mr. Grisedall for preaching	...	00	05 00
To the poor of our own town and			
none else at 6d. apiece	... ..	00	10 06
To Geo. Wright for making a coffin		00	00 06
For breaking a grave in the chancell		00	04 00
To Peggy Hughs and Maggy Fisher			
windrs. either 1s. ... ..	...	00	02 00
The Queen's duty for his Buriall	...	00	04 00
			<hr/>
		01	06 06
			<hr/>



# OLD CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS. 139

To Geo. Willson, Butcher, veal 4				
Quart <sup>rs</sup> . at 5 <sup>s</sup> veal 4	Quart <sup>rs</sup> . 6s. 6d.	00	11	06
Item one sheep 5s.	... ..	00	05	00
Sugar 1 lb. 8d.	... ..	00	00	08
		04	05	2½

“Spared bread a dozen but little cheese and wee spared some meat but not to speak of. All strangers had cold meat and all our neighbourhood [the people on the ‘visiting list’ for such occasions].

This money was all laid out besides within ourselves, as Beefe, Wheat, Bacon Bread and Drink.”

Item to Doctor Archer for tending to				
my Father ... ..		00	10	09
To Robt. Walker appotitary for Phis-				
sicke... ..		00	07	11
John Longmire expenses in fetching				
the Doctor ... ..		00	01	00
		00	19	07

The following are additional items at Benjamin Browne’s funeral in 1728 :—

Tolling the bell from death till inter-				
ment... ..		00	04	00
14 dozen Wiggs [Kendal wiggs are				

140      A WESTMORLAND VILLAGE.

a kind of fancy bread still made]			
and 16 dozen of bread	...	...	
Cakes 6 dozen at 2d....	...	...	00 12 00
Beef a Quart <sup>r</sup> ...	...	...	00 15 06
Veal a side	...	...	00 04 06
Two sheep of my own at 6s. apiece...			00 12 00
Coffin 5s.	...	...	00 05 00
Tin letters for name and year of our			
Lord and age, 6s.	...	...	00 06 00
Malt a load (for brewing)	...	..	01 07 00
Wine, white and red 2 gallon	...		00 17 06

**CHAPTER VII.**  
**OF SOME "CONTENTIOUS PERSONS" OF**  
**TROUTBECK.**



## CHAPTER VII.

### OF SOME "CONTENTIOUS PERSONS" OF TROUTBECK.

THE sturdy statesman of Troutbeck has never been inclined to sit down under his wrongs, and has been equally ready to do battle for his rights by force of arms or at law. In fact the litigious propensity of the Cumbrian has been frequently noticed, and some writers have even claimed this characteristic as an indication of the Scandinavian descent of this people.

A retired solicitor once boasted that he had feathered his comfortable nest out of Troutbeck, and "Ald Hoggart" warned his neighbours a century and a half ago :

" And further I would plainly show,  
If you'll take my advice,  
By no means meddle with the law,  
Which is Fools' Paradise."

The petty disputes among the tenants were settled by the Customary Courts, held by the lord's steward, or his deputy, and a jury of tenants of the manor. This Court met to admit new tenants, to frame regulations for the government of the manor and to take cognizance of and impose fines for disobedience of such orders.

At a Court held at Windermere in the reign of Henry VIII. (the year is not given) it was ordered that "whosoe breaketh an award of judgement given by sworne Men upon their othe forfeits for every default X l."

An example of the more turbulent way of settling disputes by "unlawful weapons" is contained in the Exchequer Bills of 1581.

William Richardson of Applethwaite claims that he purchased in the year 1545 a "ten chattell" tenement in Troutbeck from one William Longmire, and complains that lately one Henry Longmire, William Longmire's heir, disputed the possession of the said lands. This misguided young man considered, no doubt, that he had been defrauded of his paternal acres and

assembling his friends with bows and bills violently took away the grass from the petitioner's fields and did other damage.

The petition is thus set forth :

"Wm. Richardson of Applewhat in Co. Wes<sup>d</sup>., Yeoman, sheweth that whereas one William Langmyer of the town of Wells, within the Co. of Somerset, late dwelling at Troutbecke, in P'sh of Wyandermer being seized of and in one Tenement with appurtenances in Troutbecke called Ten Cattalls, and soe being seised of the said Tenemente did selle and set over to y<sup>r</sup> poore Orator by deed bearing date 1 August, 37th year of reign 1545. But now so it is that about 3 years since one Henrye Langmyer, of Troutbecke, Yeoman, enclaining the same as heire of the said William Langmyer did enter into the said lands and y<sup>r</sup> Orator prays the Queen's magistrates most gracious writ of subpoena to be directed to Henrye Langmyer as well as to Edmonde Morehouse, late of Harwode in Co. York, gent., Hughe Bateman, of Applewhat in Co. Westm'land, Yeoman, and Hughe Birkhead

of Applewhat who, not only often tymes with bowes, staves, bills and other unlawful weapons violently have assembled to carry away the grass from y<sup>r</sup>. Orator's premises, but otherwise seek to defraud y<sup>r</sup>. Orator."

In defence of their rights the tenants of Troutbeck were not afraid to bandy words with the king himself, and in 1615 George Browne braved the royal displeasure by disputing the king's right to take fish from the Troutbeck.

Even the great Sir Francis Bacon, it will be observed, must perforce devote his mighty intellect to this question of the fish in the Troutbeck, albeit they are now reckoned of small account.

"The Salmonds and Trowtes of Troutbeck, Windermere.

"Exchequer bill. No. 70. James I. Hilary. 1615.

"Sir Frauncis Bacon K<sup>nt</sup>., his majesty's attorney General, sheweth that his majesty standeth seized in his demesne as of fee, of certain lands within the Barony of Kendal & Co. Westmorland, commonlie called the



manner Richmond fee, and being so seized hath belonging to the said manor divers and sundry Lordshipps called hamlets or townships, within which are several freshe ryvers or waters among others one River called Trowtbecke which runneth from out Trowtbecke into another freshe Ryver comonlie called the water of Windermersh which said water is the chiefest water for fishing within his Majesty's manor; into which River of Trowtbecke abt. October cometh forth of the sayd water called Windermersh great abundance of Trowtes and Salmonds to spawne, and for a tyme remayneth therein, and that ever hath bene a 'buyer lawe' or order within the said manor that what man soever by day or night that goeth abt. eyther by lighte or lister [pronged fork], nett, coupe [basket] or other emoyne to destroy any Fische there, he is to be fyned and punished by the steward and Bayliffe there from tyme to tyme for that if the fish at the spawning tyme of the yeare be destroyed by sinister means and practise, then the water of Windermersh will in a short time

be voyd of fishe, for true it is that a certaine No. of poor men of Windermersgh water farme and payeth to his Ma<sup>tie</sup>, six pounds 13<sup>s</sup>. & 4<sup>d</sup>. rent for the same. But now soe it is that one George Browne the elder a customary tenaunt within Troutbecke that of late hath made up a water weare within the flodgate of the sd. river of Troutbecke for the takinge & quitte destroying of Kipp trowtes and Salmonds which at Michas last he did in great abundance (abt. 400) for the course of the fish is such that after they have spawned they return backe againe down the said river in great abundance into the fresh water of Windermersgh & in their coming downe the said Browne the elder hath made the weare & hath destroyed the fish there, and further, whereas one Christopher Phillipson of Callgarth, Esq., deputie steward under Sir Henry Savyll Knt. head steward, used tyme of the memorie of man not to the contrarie by the steward & his deputy uppon the 22nd of September last call to him the Bayliff of Trowtbecke to go with him up along the sayd ryver to

view & soe that noe disorder or misde-meanour was committed did take with them a nette to have a draughte in the said river at that seasonable tyme of the year for the taking of some fish especiallie of that place called Milne Dame [a Mill about a quarter of a mile above Troutbeck Church, now called Mill Dam] & took greate stones in his hands & did throw the same into the water there of intent to stay the nette from Drawinge; and the said Christopher Phillipson demandinge of him wherefore he did soe he answered & sayd—'The water and Fishe is ours & the steward nor any man shall come with any nets hither to fish'—and uttered many more pre-emptorie speeches, persistinge in claiming the Righte of the matter for his Ma<sup>ty</sup> inheritance the which is soe great a wrong to his Majesty as never any customary tennant heretofore did offer the like; As to the said George Browne the elder he is known to be a very wronglynge [wrangling] p'son & one that is solely addicted to suits at lawe & contentcon. May it please your lordship to grant his

Majesty's writ of subpoena that at a certain day the said George Browne the younger under a certain peine do appeare and answer the premises upon his oath."

The Browne family seem to have maintained their reputation for "wrangling," for later, in the seventeenth century, we find the following complaint :

"Feb. 22, 1658. George Browne elder of Troutbecke, George Browne younger of the same, Robert Field of Crooke, and Thos. Atkinson of Aplethwait, the 22nd day of February, 1657 with force and armes riotously and unlawfully assembled themselves and came together with an intent to disturbe the publique peace & then & there wth force & armes riotously in and upon Willm. Birkett of Troutbeck aforesaid in the said county agt. the peace of God & of his Highness the Lord P'tector, beinge a greate assaulte & affray, did make, and him the said Will Birkett did beate, wounde and evillie handle so that of his life it was despaired, &c."

But we must not be too hard on Mr.

Browne and his son, for the counter indictment represents them as the innocent victims of a riotous assault.

"Feb. 22, 1658. Wm. Birkett, Robert Birkett, Jennet his wife, Thomas Birkett and George Birkett, the 22nd day of February, 1657, at Troutbeck aforesaid, with force and armes riotously, &c. in and upon George Browne the younger of Troutbeck, did make a great assault, and him the said George, &c."

The same persons were charged by Robert Field with an assault at the same time and place.

Altogether, Troutbeck was not very peaceable at this time, for later in the year another Browne is aggrieved.

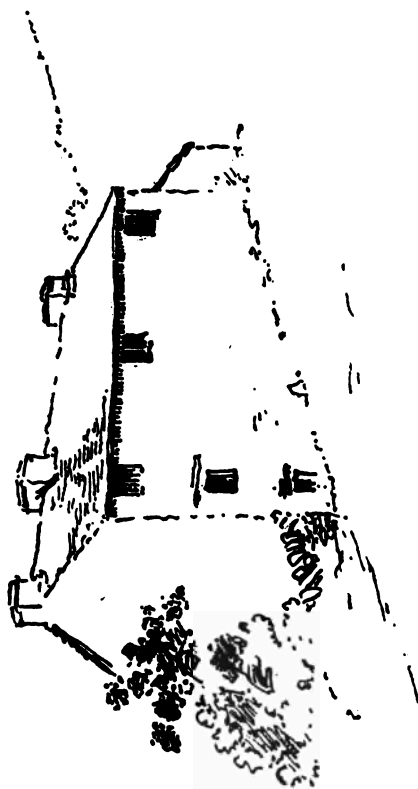
"Augt. 27th, 1658. Anthonie Cookson of Troutbeck, yeoman, & Anne his wife, with force & armes at troutbecke in the said county in and upon Rowland Browne, overseer of the poore, he being in the execution of his office, a great assault did make & him did beat, &c." Anthony and his wife were convicted and fined 22 shillings. What

were the "Armes," we wonder, with which the Amazon resisted the payment of the rate?

The behaviour of our Troutbeck yeomen seems altogether to have been in ill accord with the strict rule of the Commonwealth, for next month we find evidence of how they profaned the Sabbath by tippling and rioting.

"Robert Birkett of Troutbeck, Inholder, the 25th day of August, 1658, the 8th & 15th daie of September, 1658, beeing the Sabboth or Lordes daies, at Troutbeck aforesaid in the said county hath publicquely profaned the said Lord's daies in tippling and suffering persons to drink in his house upon the same to the great dishon<sup>r</sup>. of God, &c."

The dispute with the king about the fishing in the Troutbeck was a trivial one compared with the peril which beset the customary tenants of the barony of Kendal a few years later. The danger was not peculiar to Troutbeck, but the episode is so important in the history of customary tenure that a brief mention must be made of it, although it has been fully treated by other writers.



GREAT HOUSE.





King James I. was generally short of money, and there seemed to be an excellent pretext for taking into his own hands all the customary lands of Westmorland and Cumberland which were held by the ancient Border Service.

With the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland the necessity for such military service had ceased, and the king considered, or pretended to consider, that with the cessation of these obligations the tenure had ceased also.

To effect the resumption by the Crown of these lands they were granted to his son Charles, Prince of Wales, and to make a show of legality the king commanded proceedings to be commenced in Chancery to have it declared that the Westmorland and Cumberland estates belonged to the king. As the judges were most complacent to the royal wishes at this time, there was no difficulty about these proceedings.

The tenants filed an answer in Chancery, setting forth their claims. Many were evicted before any decree was pronounced.

The tenants were in sore straits. They had either to give up their lands which they and their ancestors had held for centuries by honourable service, or to rebel against their lawful sovereign.

A meeting was held in 1620 in the churchyard at Staveley, near Windermere, to protest against the confiscation. The tenants were summoned by James Smith, High Constable and Bridge-master of Kendal Ward of the County of Westmorland, under pretence of viewing the bridge and deciding about repairs.

The statesmen resolved to defend to the utmost their homes and estates, to petition the king to allow the ancient customs of Border Tenant Right, and to present a Bill in Parliament to establish those rights. The Bill was rejected and the king proclaimed the suppression of all customary estates and the abolition of all tenure by Border Service.

The tenants met to publish a remonstrance, which led to proceedings in the Star Chamber against the ringleaders.

Just at this time James I. died, and the judges pronounced a decree confirming the customary estates in Westmorland. A commission was appointed to fix the amount to be paid in lieu of Border Service, which had ceased to be necessary.

Knowing that the king was in want of money, many of the tenants of Grasmere, Langdale, Applethwaite, Undermillbeck and other places, had previously raised £2,700, which they paid to the King, who had thereupon confirmed their rights as good and lawful.

This money was to be paid as follows: In June, 1619, the tenants paid £1,700, and gave bond for the remaining £1,000 at the following Martinmas. The proportion of this £1,000 to be paid by Troutbeck and Ambleside was £203 16s. 9d. The persons who gave the bond were Gawen Braithwaite, Esquire, and nine others from Ambleside; and George Browne, George Birkhead, Robert Birkhead, Stephen Birkhead, Richard Borwick, Edwin Borwick, Thomas Birkhead, and James Birkhead, all of Troutbeck.

If Troutbeck and Ambleside contributed in the same proportion to the first instalment, as it may reasonably be supposed they did, the total payment by the two townships would amount to £529.

Again in 1664 the tenants of the Richmond and Marquis Fees were threatened by a royal decree, although this time it was only the lesser danger of the loss of the timber on their lands. A certain Colonel Kirby, a royalist, was rewarded for his services by Charles II. by a grant of timber in the Richmond and Marquis Fees in the Barony of Kendal.

The tenants of the said Fees petitioned the Lord Treasurer and Chancellor of His Majesty's Exchequer against this grant, and it was decided that the grant should not "prejudice the petitioners in the use and benefit of the woods in question."

A survey of the woods and trees which was made at this time is interesting as showing the extent of the timber in Troutbeck in 1664. There is a complete account of "the number and vallue of such trees as

are fitt for shipp timber for the service of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Navy and of all young trees and saplings like to growing and becoming fitt for that service and which are accordingly marked and sett for that purpose."

There were two hundred and sixty such trees in Troutbeck, valued at £12 4s. 4d. The Crawmires tenement of the Longmire family had forty trees, a far larger number than any other in Troutbeck, showing that the finest trees were near Troutbeck Bridge; but Troutbeck makes a poor show altogether compared with some of the other townships, such as Loughrigg. "The other woods" of Troutbeck, the young trees and saplings, were valued at £85 10s. 0d.



CHAPTER VIII.  
SOME WORTHIES OF TROUTBECK.





## CHAPTER VIII.

### SOME WORTHIES OF TROUTBECK.

AN account of the worthies of Troutbeck must begin, alas! with a disavowal of the claims of the village to some who are erroneously but very generally reputed its most noteworthy sons.

First of all, despite the commonly accepted words of the ballad, John Peel, the famous huntsman, lived neither at Troutbeck by Windermere, nor at Troutbeck in Cumberland, but at Caldbeck, near Wigton.

Hogarth, the painter, again, was not born in the village, as is often supposed, nor did he ever live there, although the family was connected with Troutbeck through the artist's uncle, Thomas Hoggart, the rustic poet and playwright, known to his contemporaries as "Ald Hoggart."

Thomas Hoggart was born in 1642, at

Brampton, in Westmorland, where his father was a statesman with a small property. Being a younger son Thomas received no share of the paternal acres, and settled in Troutbeck, earning a livelihood by the joint occupations of carpentry and husbandry.

He died in 1709, and lies buried in the churchyard at Troutbeck.

His verses, often very personal, and by no means refined, gained him some celebrity. From the fragments of them which remain he appears to have been of a satirical turn of mind, like his more famous nephew, the painter.

Thomas Hoggart was especially well known for his plays, such as "The Siege of Troy" and "The Lascivious Queen," of which the latter was acted on St. James's Day, on a scaffold in Moss Gap, near the church in Troutbeck, and "Ald Hoggart," besides being the playwright, was also churchwarden and stage manager. Are we to infer from this that these dramas were played, like the Mysteries and the Miracle Plays of the Middle Ages, under the patronage of the Church?

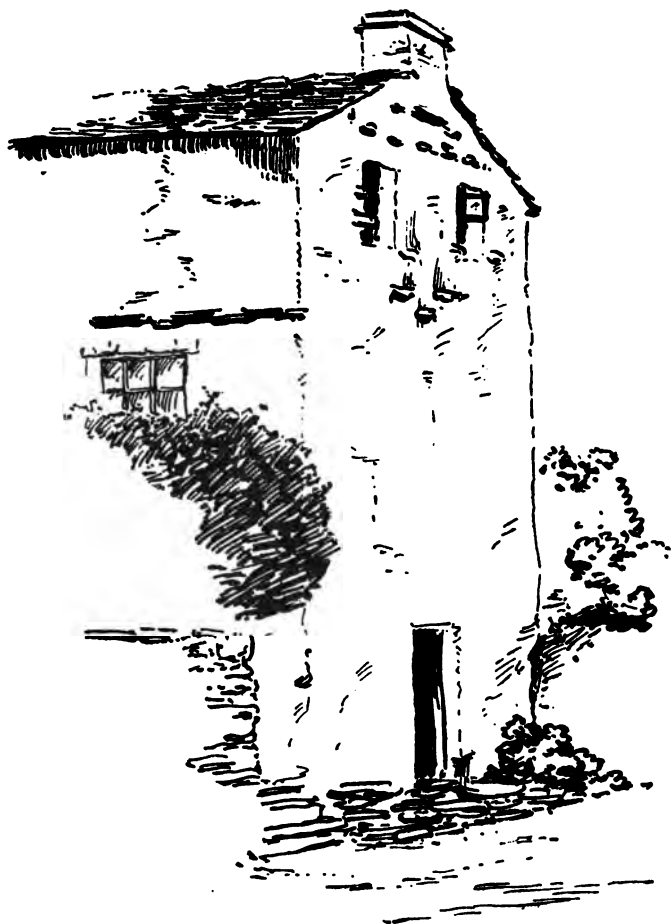
These plays continued to be acted in Troutbeck after their author's death, and Adam Walker, the Troutbeck philosopher, who is mentioned later, took part as a boy in the revival of "The Siege of Troy." Walker's graphic account gives some idea of the curious scene.

"The performance began," writes Walker, "with a procession round the village, headed by the minstrels of five parishes, followed by a yeoman sitting astride a bull, playing a fiddle." The unruliness of the bull, which every now and then "put the lungs and ribs of the spectators in manifest danger," only added to the general merriment, and gave scope for the jests of the clown of the piece. "He was a compound," says Walker, "of the Harlequin and Merry Andrew, or rather an Arch Fool of the ancient kings. His dress was a white jacket covered with representations of bulls, bears, birds, fish, etc., cut in various coloured cloth. His trousers were decorated in like manner, and hung round with small bells; and his cap was that of Folly, decorated with bells, and an otter's brush depending." The

play "was written in metre much in the manner of Lopez de Vega, or the ancient French drama; the unities were not too strictly observed, for the siege of ten years was all represented; every hero was present in the piece, so that the dramatis personæ consisted of every lad of genius in the whole parish. The wooden horse; Hector dragged by the heels of Diomedes; the flight of Aeneas; and the burning of the city, were all represented. I remember not what fairies had to do in all this; but as I happened to be about three feet high at the time of this still talked of exhibition, I personated one of these tiny beings."

A selection of the poems of Ald Hoggart was published at Kendal in 1853, under the title of "Remnants of Rhyme." They are, in the main, their editor confesses, "as little distinguished by delicacy of sentiment as by refinement of expression."

One of Hoggart's ballads, "The Taming of the Shrew," is printed by Clarke in his "Survey of the Lakes." "And once for singing of this song, my wife she broke my



SCHULIE'S HOME (see p. 178).



head," the poet admits, so that the taming process seems not to have been entirely successful.

A few of his productions attain to a higher level, and one of them at least, "A Song," somewhat in the manner of the old duologue known as "The Nut-brown Maid," is not ungraceful.

The first in point of time of Troutbeck's "famous men" is, without doubt, Hugh Hird, the giant, otherwise known by the euphonious title of "The Cork Lad of Kentmere." Why "of Kentmere," since he lived in Troutbeck park, is not very clear. Perhaps because one of his feats was the lifting into its place of the mantel, or beam over the fireplace, at Kentmere Hall, after the united efforts of ten ordinary men had failed.

Clarke, in his "Survey," gives some details, for which we should not like to assume any responsibility, of the career of this somewhat legendary hero—details which the author tells us were derived from the parish register and some memoirs of a certain William Birket, of Troutbeck.

It is a little unfortunate for Clarke's reputation for veracity that the famous Hugh is stated to have lived in the reign of Edward VI., while the earliest record in the parish register is of the year 1579!

Far be it from us to cast doubts on the authenticity of the legend, but as the story is fully told elsewhere, there is no need for its repetition, and he who would hear more of the giant, may read in the "Survey" of Hugh's journey to London, and how he wrestled before the king, how the "sunny side of a wether" barely sufficed for his dinner, and of his premature death induced, probably, by his over-exertions in pulling up trees by the roots.

To return to more recent times some mention must be made of Adam Walker, "the celebrated lecturer on natural and experimental philosophy," not to be confounded with his namesake and collateral descendant, almost equally famous for his prowess as a wrestler.

Adam Walker is said to have been born at The Crosses, on the Applethwaite side of the



Troutbeck valley. He is the subject of a memoir in "The Worthies of Westmorland," and left behind him a book, entitled "Remarks made in a Tour to the Lakes of Westmorland and Cumberland, in the Summer of 1791," as well as many works on scientific subjects. He died at Richmond, Surrey, in 1821.

Another noted native of Applethwaite was Sir John Wilson, Knight, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, and one of the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal.

The existing house, called The Howe, which is one of the conspicuous buildings of the Troutbeck valley, was built by the Justice, on the site of an earlier dwelling. Young Wilson early distinguished himself. He entered St. Peter's College, Cambridge, and became in 1761 Senior Wrangler, the first to come out of Westmorland. He died at Kendal in 1793, "justly beloved and revered for his amiable temper, learning, honesty, and independent spirit." His son, Admiral Wilson, succeeded to The Howe.

Not only in Poetry, Science, and Law have the natives of Troutbeck distinguished themselves, but even Art is not unknown among them.

Julius Cæsar Ibbotson was a portly, jovial person, born in Yorkshire in 1759, but associated for a few years with Troutbeck.

Perhaps his most famous work was the celebrated sign board of the "Mortal Man" Inn, but this remark must not be taken as a disparagement of his landscape paintings, which have considerable merit. He first began to exhibit at the Royal Academy in 1785.

Ibbotson had a chequered career, and his wanderings included a voyage to China in 1788. After the death of his first wife he married a Miss Thompson, of Ambleside, in 1801, and came to live in Troutbeck; but he returned to London two years later, and was soon in difficulties again. He last exhibited at the Academy in 1812, and died at Masham, in his native county, soon afterwards.

CHAPTER IX.  
THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL,



## CHAPTER IX.

### THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

THE Church has no striking architectural features, but is prettily situated near the beck, and its simplicity is pleasing where a more pretentious style would have been quite out of place. It is a plain stone building of the common Lake Country type, and the oak rafters which support the roof resemble those of an ancient barn. In its present form it is less than two hundred years old.

There are no tomb stones of any great antiquity, nor are there any early records of the Chapel which must have existed previously to 1558, when we first hear of it, since the reference is to repairs of an existing building. This reference occurs in the will of George Browne, of Troutbeck, dated 1558, which specifies a legacy "to the reparation of the Chapel of Troutbeck."

The renovated Chapel was consecrated in 1562 by William Downham, Bishop of Chester, and was called "Jesus Chapel." Adam Carus was at this time vicar of Windermere. There was a second consecration in 1563 by Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the second consecration deed of 1563 it is mentioned that "there be a Church or Chappell with a competent Church yard adjoining to the same, *anciently* seated and decently builded where in divine exercises have been and are accustomed to be done and celebrated."

From this also it may be inferred that it was not a newly built church. Formerly there was a steeple at the west end of the Church, which was open to the aisle. In 1735 the churchwardens declared the steeple so unstable that it was likely to fall, and as a precaution they took down a bell which was hung there. This bell was cast in 1631 and was inscribed with the motto :

"Jesus be our speede."

In 1736 the Church was rebuilt in its

existing form under the terms of the legacy of George Browne, of Townhead. Till a recent date men and women sat apart in the nave. No great alteration was made in the arrangement of the seats in 1736, nor in 1861, when the Church was reseated.

The old seats in the nave, we are told, were made of oak, with open backs and a single rail. The seats in the chancel (with one exception) were made of oak and panelled. The chancel seats were the common property of certain customary tenants, and besides these there were two "faculty seats" in the chancel. One, dated 1707, belongs to the Brownes of Townend.<sup>1</sup> The other was obtained in 1820 by the late Admiral Wilson of The Howe.

An order of the jury of the lord of the manor dealt with the matter of the seats in the chancel in 1583, when it was ordered that none have a "place or seat in the chancel, but such as are appointed by the Salary men, and any person appointed to the seat to pay two shillings." Persons who were

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A.

placed in the chancel enjoyed the privilege for life.

In 1680 the Bishop of Chester ordered "that the three trustees or sworn men shall from henceforth soe often as any place in the chancell of the said chappell shall be vacant from time to time place in the same place some of the ablest and most substantial persons in the Cappellry as well for competency of estate as for ability in singing." A rare combination one would imagine!

Two hundred and fifty years ago the minister's salary amounted to no more than £10. Needless to say it has since been augmented at various times.

At the west end of the Church is a gallery, where formerly the village musicians played, led by old Thomas Harrison, clerk, precentor and schoolmaster, generally known as "Schulie."

"It was an interesting sight," says an old inhabitant of Troutbeck, "to see Tommy leave his lower 'deck' under the pulpit and stump down the aisle—he was crippled in



one leg and obliged to supplement it with a wooden one—with a large quarto prayer-book under his arm and his thumb stuck in it to mark the place of the psalm for the day. Then he would mount the steps into the singing gallery, take his pitch-pipe (previously prepared for that purpose) and give the key-note of the tune, and not infrequently find that an irreverent member of the choir, Adam Walker, the famous wrestler, had altered the pitch beforehand, to the great confusion of Thomas."

A stranger visiting the Church in those days would have been strongly reminded of Washington Irving's description of a village choir in "Bracebridge Hall."

The Churchwardens' accounts begin in 1641. Looking through the list of burials in the parish registers we notice that for the year from March, 1623, to March, 1624, there were seventy-seven burials as against nine in the previous year, and that there were five deaths in the household of Laurance Harrison, who lost all his family. Evidently some sort of pestilence had visited Troutbeck. In the

same year the deaths were very numerous at Kendal. An earlier visitation of the plague is recorded in 1598 (see p. 213).

The Troutbeck parish registers begin in the year 1579, and the orthography is so curious that it may be illustrated by one or two examples.

"Amrigge Cowpthwatt sone of Xpr [Christopher] Cowpthwatt de Kentmr baptised the VI. Januarii 1580.

"John Hyrd wiffe senr de Troutbecke pk was buried the XXIst of Januarii 1580.

"Mary pt-rigg [Partridge] daughter of Rob. de Amblesed baptised the third of Novembre 1581.

"A strange woman who dyed in Wm. Robtts his house was buried the XVIIth day of June 1587.

"Nyolas Wilkinson, a poore boye dyed in Amblesed, was buried the second daie of Februarie 1588 born near Muncaster."

The School was founded in 1637. In the foundation deed it is stated that the "inhabitants and their ancest<sup>rs</sup> and predecess<sup>rs</sup> out of a small stock at the beginning, have now

soe much augmented and increased their said stock, that the same is not only sufficient to raise the yearly sum of Ten pounds to a Minister for serving the Cure at the said Church, but also five pounds yearly for retaining of a schoolmaster 'for teaching' at a new Schoole by them lately erected."<sup>1</sup>

The School was rebuilt in 1853, and is quite a modern building. When the late trustees ceased to exist under the new Education Act of 1903, five of them were direct descendants of the original trustees of 1637.

In connection with the Church, it may not be out of place to add a few words concerning the clergy who ministered to the spiritual needs of Troutbeck in the olden time.

<sup>1</sup> It was also agreed that three score and six pounds, thirteen shillings and five pence be taken from the Church stock for the use aforesaid. In 1762 a subscription of £107 11s. 0d. was raised to augment the school stock. Seventy-five pounds was invested in 1767 in the Ambleside Turnpike Trust, when the new Turnpike road was made, in which it remained till the Turnpike gates were taken away.

The "priest" of a North Country parish was in a very different position to the holder of a rich living in the South, and the Troutbeck parson of the old time, living a hard life and doing much manual labour, lacked something of the refinement and educational attainments generally associated with the cloth, although it must be borne in mind that Fielding's "Parson Trulliber" was a common type of the clergy in the eighteenth century, even in the more accessible parts of England.

The dress of a Westmorland parish priest, a hundred years ago, consisted of a drab fustian coat, corduroy knee breeches, grey stockings of the coarsest wool, clogs or caulked shoes, stuffed with bracken, and a brown hat.

Within the memory of some of those now living a very noted character filled the pulpit at Troutbeck. This was the well-known Parson Sewell, who was the incumbent from 1827 to 1869. Like many a parish priest of the old school he was devoted to fox-hunting and other sports, and eked out his slender

stipend, as holders of poor Westmorland livings used to do, by farming.

Sewell is the original of the oft quoted story of the parson who leaned over the pulpit before the service began and inquired of his clerk, "Have you seen owt o' two lile sheep o' mine? They're smitten i' t' ear like yours but deeper i' t' smit."

When asked to offer up a prayer for fine weather he replied to his clerk, "It's nae use, Tommy, es lang es t' wind i' this quarter."

The said "Tommy Harrison" was almost as remarkable an individual as Sewell himself.

On one occasion, some time in the first half of the century that has just gone by, a stranger, who had come to take the place of the absent incumbent, noticed, what to him seemed to be a very soiled surplice, which was hanging behind the vestry door. The clerk, however, explained that this was not a surplice, and was "nobbet ald Annas' penance sheet," in which that erring female had been required to do penance by walking

through Troutbeck Church with her hair hanging down her back.

Sometimes a wrong-doer of the male sex was required to do a similar penance. Thus in 1715 it was ordered that "George Birkett shall be present in the Parish Church of Windermere, upon some Sunday, att the Appointment of the Reverend Mr. Barton, Rector there, and also in the Chapel of Troutbeck upon some Sunday, att the Appointment of the Reverend Mr. Grisedale, Curate there, where being in a Penitential spirit Immediately after Reading the Second lesson in the Forenoon Service in the fullness of the Congregation, he shall Audibly, reverently, and Penitentially Repeat the following Declaration. \* \* \* \* The performance whereof is to be certified in the Register's Office, at Kendall, att or before the third day of March next."

## CHAPTER X.

A VIEW OF TROUTBECK.

FROM TOWNFOOT TO THE CRAGG.





## CHAPTER X.

### A VIEW OF TROUTBECK.

#### *From Townfoot to The Cragg.*

STARTING at the southern end of the village, the first house which we notice is an antiquated white-washed house at the foot of a steep brow. This house is called Townfoot, and is noticeable from the fact of its being built with the cow byre underneath the dwelling-house.

This was a precaution against the inroads of the Scots Mosstroopers. On the sounding of the alarm the cattle could be driven into the byre, and the house became a small fortress. The gable of the roof is ornamented by "tabling," *i.e.*, large flat stones placed one upon the other till the point of the gable is reached, when a pyramidical stone is generally placed upon the apex, unless it is

terminated by a chimney. This is to protect the roof against storms. Three rows of stringed watercourses, which were a little time ago festooned with polypodium fern, project several inches from the wall of the house.

Townfoot was part of the Townend estate until the death of George Browne, in 1558, who devised the property to his younger son, Christopher. The last George Browne of Townfoot died in 1787, and was succeeded by Jane Mary Scales, a niece, who was a widow.

She married Philip Dixon, of Troutbeck, who devised the tenement to his grandson, John Bigland of Cartmel Fell. The widow Scales, in two wills which are extant, expressed a wish to be buried at Kendal with an elaborate funeral. However, when she died, her relict, Philip Dixon, who was probably of an economical mind, said he should try her first at Troutbeck, "and marry if she does not rest quietly, then she'll nobbet be to tak' to Kendal efter o'."

John Bigland married Susan Forrest, of

Troutbeck, and his widow bought out the interest of the heir-at-law, and brought the house to the family of her second husband, the Braithwaites, who now own the house.

The next house is one which has been very much modernised ; or rather, a modern house, fronting the road, has been built on to the long white-washed building with stringed watercourses, where bunches of polypodium are growing. It belonged at one time to the Birkett family.

On the opposite side of the road is a house which now serves as the farm for the Townend property. It belonged to James Braithwaite in 1629, passed to the Birketts in 1695, and was purchased by Benjamin Browne of Townend in 1732.

Then comes the " mansion " at Townend which is fully described elsewhere, with a very fine old barn on the opposite side of the road, dated 1666.

The next house, known in the old days as " Lane," has been modernised into a neat villa and labelled " Glenside." A small part of the old building still remains at the

back of the house. It was formerly very picturesque, with two gables fronting the road. The tenement belonged at one time to George Birkett de Lane, or George de Lane, as he was often called in accordance with local custom. The "de" has an aristocratic ring about it which is lacking in his more frequent appellation of "Old Laney."

From the turn of the road here the view is very striking. The houses along the road seem quite embowered in trees; beyond there is a fine sweep of hills. In the foreground the fields are of that brilliant green peculiar to Westmorland grass; little "nobbly" fields, dear to the lover of the North Country, telling of rock beneath the soil, heaping the earth into strange shapes so that the country might be thought to be covered with artificial mounds and the remains of ancient camps. Immediately across the beck, the course of which can be traced by the foliage along its banks, stands The Howe, where the Wilsons used to live.

The Vicarage is below the road; beyond

it the Church; and a prosperous looking farm called Limefitt, originally the house of the Longmires de Limefitt, is in a straight line over the Church tower. The older Limefitt was burnt down about 1760, the fire being caused, it is said, by the igniting of a jackdaw's nest which had been built in the chimney.

Near by is Matthew Howe, a small white-washed house, which formerly had one of the outside galleries, once so striking a feature of Troutbeck. This was the home of the Reverend Dudley Walker who was parson or "priest" at Troutbeck from 1663 to 1694. He went afterwards to Ambleside and died there in 1725. His wife was one of the Birketts of The Cragg, and the tenement was purchased by that family. A descendant, Peter Birkett, was an old soldier, and at one time kept an inn here, called "The Jolly Dragoon," in memory of his martial exploits. The lane which runs by the side of the house is called Peter Lane, after this Peter Birkett.

A little further along the road, on the

opposite side, is an old house which belonged to one of the Atkinson family.

The next house to this is also called "Lane," or "Robin Lane," to distinguish it from the other tenement of that name. It is an old house of no great pretensions, and stands on rising ground above the road. The south end of the building was the cow byre, and is covered with ivy, while a fine yew stands at the northernmost end. The house belonged in 1626 to George Birkett, and has his initials on the wall, but they are not visible from the road.

The next group of houses is particularly interesting. Three houses and a barn stand close together. Only one of the houses is now inhabited, Low House, which belongs to Mr. Birkett-Forrest, built in 1627 and altered in 1841.

Mr. Birkett-Forrest is the fortunate possessor of some of the finest old oak furniture in Troutbeck, inherited from the Birkett family. There is a cabinet dated 1634; an oak bedstead with panelled tester, marked with the initials C. B. 1654.

A writing desk bears the same initials and date, and a fine "kist" is dated 1694.

The old building, where the remains of the latticed windows are still visible, and which stands just to the south-east, is known as "Browfoot." It was once the house of a Christopher Birkett, and had a gallery on the north side of the house which was removed not many years ago. These galleries were used for storing peat.

The third house of the group is a very good example of an old Westmorland house, and is described in Chapter II. It belonged originally to the Birketts. The present Bishop of Bristol, who is descended from the Birketts through the Forrests, was born here.

Just opposite the "Institute" is a quaint building of irregular form, called "Low Fold." In the yard there is a gallery built against the barn, very gay in summer with flowers which grow from every cranny and are suspended in pots from the woodwork of the gallery.

Another feature of the house is a small

oak panelled closet which projects beyond the outer wall, looking from the outside almost like an oriel window which has been blocked up. In the "house" there is an oak cabinet marked with the initials C. B., and the date 1674, referring to a Christopher Birkett who then owned Low Fold. From the Birketts the house passed by marriage to the Airey family,<sup>1</sup> then it came into the hands of another family of Birketts, and, finally, by the marriage of Agnes Birkett, it came to the Forrests, who now own the tenement.

Two pollarded sycamores are planted in the road, of curious and uncouth shape; but they throw a grateful shade over the triangular plot of ground where they grow.

The next house is also known as Low Fold. It is covered with ivy and the date, 1772, on a lozenge, is hidden beneath the plaster.

The house belonged to the Marton family.

<sup>1</sup> Roger Airey, *d.* 1580, left a son George, *d.* 1597, who married a Birkhead and so acquired Low Fold. This George Airey left two daughters: Anne, who m. Christopher Birkett of The Lane, and Elizabeth, who m. George Birkhead in 1628.



A little further along the road is an irregular group of buildings. The small farm is called "Browhead." On a lozenge ornamented with a fleur-de-lys, are the initials T. B. M.—Thomas and Margaret Braithwaite, and the date 1692. The Braithwaites owned the house as long ago as the time of Henry VIII., but in the eighteenth century it passed into the hands of the Wilsons of The Howe.

The homestead has recently been renovated, and is very "spick and span" in its clean white-wash, although perhaps its faded cream colour gave it a more antiquated appearance. It has a new slate roof too, doubtless more comfortable for the inhabitants; but one misses the broken line of an old roof-tree which is so pleasing to the eye of the artist.

Within there is some old oak to be seen—a large cabinet, and two smaller cupboards on each side of the fireplace in the "house." While the workmen were engaged upon the exterior, the writer chanced to pass by in company with the local authority on

antiquarian matters. A burly plasterer was engaged in restoring the lettering upon the lozenge, and a discussion took place as to the character of the figure 1 of the date 1692, which had been worn away. No one seemed to remember whether it had been a plain Arabic figure or a figure of that curious type, well known to all collectors of old oak in these parts, which appears to the uninitiated to be an ornament composed of interlaced curves.

The plasterer wished to keep everything "ald-fashioned," and gratified by this admirable sentiment we left him to his work.

The ivy-covered cottage which stands on a little eminence immediately over the sharp turn of the road has been made out of the Browhead barn and has no history. Just opposite is a small cottage, very much covered with ivy at one end, which is called "Bell Hill." Formerly a large dwelling stood here, the remains of which can just be made out in the adjoining field. This house belongs to the Birketts of Middlerigg.

The house which is now the Post Office,

belonged in 1775 to the Storey family, and was at one time an inn known as "The Bay Horse." The present building dates from about the beginning of the eighteenth century, but there was an earlier house here which in 1653 belonged to the Longmires. At that time the roof was evidently thatched, since it was stipulated in an indenture of that date that the house should be kept in repair with thatch. There is no trace now of any thatched roof in the neighbourhood, for Westmorland slate is easily obtained and generally used for roofing. Two windows which can be seen from the little garden at the north side of the house are worthy of comment. They are placed one above the other, and are connected by a sort of channel cut in the wall, which was at one time glazed. This was a device to escape the window tax, by which it could be claimed that it was but one window, although it did duty for two. Many curiously shaped windows in old-fashioned houses have their origin in attempted evasions of this tax. The authorities finally circumvented this

ingenuity by taxing, not the windows but the number of rooms which were lit by windows. Dairies and cheese-rooms were exempted it duly labelled on the wall as such.

Opposite the Post Office are several houses, built in a sort of square, known as "High Fold." The house at the south-east corner formerly had a gallery outside, and within there are pieces of oak furniture marked S. B. 1685 and S. B. 1689. They were the property of Stephen Birkett, from whom Mr. Robert Otley Birkett, of Middle-rigg, was descended. The latter was said to be the biggest man in Westmorland, and was of fabulous stature and weight, as he must needs have been to have had such a distinction among a long-limbed race. The house now belongs to the Mackereths.

The two houses at the east side of The Fold formerly faced different ways, although they were adjoining. The house to the south, now quite modernised as "The Yew Grove Hotel," was at one time the home of Peggy Longmire, who died at The Cragg, in 1868, at the age of 103.

The air of Westmorland seems to be conducive, not only to long limbs, but to long life, for there are many examples of people in Troutbeck living to a very great age.

The initials, J. <sup>E.</sup> A. 1720, on the furniture which was formerly here, referred to Jonathan and Agnes Ellaray. G. <sup>B.</sup> M. 1692 referred to George and Marion Birkett.

The adjoining old house on the north was the home of an Anthony Birkett, whence the lane which runs alongside is called Anthony Gate.

These old lanes are interesting as showing what the state of the roads in Westmorland must have been previous to the making of the turnpike roads in the eighteenth century. It must be borne in mind that most of the present-day roads are a comparatively recent improvement. The high road which runs through the village is very narrow, and has sharp corners in it, which are very perilous in these days when motor-cars whistle past us ; but it is a stately thoroughfare compared with the narrow lane, only a few feet across,

which was here some sixty years ago. Again, the fine level road from Kendal to Ambleside does not lie along the old route between the two places. The former road was over the steep brow by St. Catherine's, and a piece of it remains in the lane which runs up from Troutbeck Bridge to The Crosses. The old lanes, principally used by pack-horses in former times, are very narrow, and paved with loose stones, rather like the bed of a beck, and their level has gradually sunk below that of the fields on either side of them, so that they are lined with very high hedgerows.

What was the state of the roads in the sixteenth century is shown by the following :

*Certificate given by the Inhabitants of Troutbeck and Applethwaite as to the state of the roads between Staveley and Kendal, June 28th, 1588.*

The original is in the handwriting of Edward Tatham, Incumbent of Troutbeck.

“To all people to whome these p'nts shall come to be rede, heard or understood we

the inhabitantes of Trowtbecke and Appeltlwate whose names and s<sup>r</sup>names be heard under written do send greetinge in our lord God Forasmuche as we ar neare neighbour<sup>s</sup> to the inhabitants of Staveley of one syde, and by them ar requested to certifie our knowledge and truthe nt onelye as to the daungrous wais between the dwelling places of divers of the hamletons afforesaid but also to certifie what we do thinke of the distance of the said way between the perrishe church of Kendall and the dwellinge places of sundry of the said inhabitants of Staveley, Do by thes pnts certifie uppon our fidelities and credit that we do know the said wais for that yt is our common market way to Kendall and that the most of us do passe the said way to the mket weeklye and therefore do signifie that the said wais (at div'se tymes of the yeaere) be very dangerous and without great perill not to be passed neyther uppon Foote nor uppon horsebacke by Reason of the aboundance of watters flowinge into the lanes being straite and depe and also by reason of great snowes \* \* \* and other

tempests in the said lanes as we often tymes to our great perill have proved. And For the distance of the said way we do think that it is VII myles or verie neare \* \* and Far worse to be passed than many ten myles be in other places of this land. And all this we and every one of us wilbe readye to depose when we shalbe thereunto required. In witness whereof unto this our present certificate we have set oure hande or marks the XXVIII.th day of June in Ao dni 1588."

## TROUTBECKE.

Edward Tatham,  
cler.  
John Hyrd, Bailiff  
George Rychardson  
John byrkh<sup>d</sup>.  
Cristofer Brathwatt  
Stephen birkhedd  
Henry Borwick  
Willm Robison  
George Airey  
Miles barwicke  
Olyver barwycke

## APPELTHWET.

Richard Willinson  
Thomas Berkhed  
Thomas Dickson  
John Comon  
John Dickson  
bryane Robynson  
Thomas Brathwte  
John Clarke  
George Roberts  
John Collison  
George Collison  
Thomas Collison



TROUTBECKE (*contd.*).    APPELTHWET (*contd.*).

George Robinson	Robt. Collison the
Willm. brathwate	elder.
Henry Langmyer	Petter Collison
Croper Idell	James Collison
Wm. Willson	Robt. Collison the
Ric. Wilson	younger.
Heughe byrkhed	Richard Harryson
James Borwick	James Harryson
minus ( <i>sic</i> )	Adam Harryson
George brown	John Nikollson
	William Haryson
	James Dyckson

At the north-west corner of The Fold is a tenement which originally belonged to the Braithwaites, who sold it to the Brownes of Townend. In 1631 the Braithwaites again purchased it from the Brownes, giving in part exchange a field, which still belongs to Townend. Afterwards the house belonged to a family of Fisher.

We now come to the part of the village known as "Cragg," so called from the steep wooded crag which rises just above the road.

The Cragg has not only given its name to The Fold, but also to individuals. One of the numerous Hartleys was distinguished from his relatives as "Cragg Hartley," one of the many Anthonys was called "Cragg Anty," and so on.

The first house is a modernised one. In the old days it belonged to the Longmires, who sold it to one Thomas Birkett. Thomas Birkett rebuilt the old house, which then passed to the Dawson family by the marriage of Abigail, daughter of the last Thomas Birkett.

The nearest house to this last is also very much altered—a trim-looking house with a pretty garden and clipped trees. This tenement also belonged to the Birketts originally, but for two centuries has been in the hands of the Dawsons, who still own it.

A rather curious house close by, with large windows, belonged to Julius Cæsar Ibbotson, the landscape painter, who painted the well-known sign of "The Mortal Man" inn, which will be described later. The windows were put in

for a Mr. Otley by the architect of the circular house which Mr. English built on Belle Island in 1778. Mr. Otley was a linen-draper of London, whose father had bought the house.

One of the oldest and most striking of the old houses of Troutbeck stands on the high ground above the road, near the house just described. It was the old home of the Longmires of Cragg, and still belongs to Miss Longmire, the daughter of a Derbyshire clergyman, who does not live in Troutbeck.

This is the house where arval bread was provided at a funeral for the last time in Troutbeck. The occasion was the funeral of Elizabeth Longmire, widow of Jonah Longmire of The Cragg, who died at the age of 87 in 1834.

The building is long and low ; the leaded lights of the oak mullioned windows are half hidden in ivy. Altogether its appearance is somewhat ruinous and extremely picturesque. In general it must be confessed, even by the most ardent champion of the North Country,

that very few of the farmhouses in these parts are "picturesque" in a strict sense, and that, from the point of view of the painter, they cannot compare with the black and white houses of Cheshire, the stone-built villages of Oxfordshire, or the tiled roofs of Surrey, gathering every colour till an old barn becomes a picture.

The Westmorland homestead is often enough no more than a square box, gleaming white (indicative, surely, of cleanliness and comfort), upon a green hill side. But to him whose heart is in the Fell Country, there is a charm all their own about these farms, snugly ensconced in a hollow of their knolled fields.

## CHAPTER XI.

A VIEW OF TROUTBECK.

FROM MID-TOWN TO TOWNHEAD.



## CHAPTER XI.

### A VIEW OF TROUTBECK.

#### *From Mid-town to Townhead.*

THE old house near The Cragg, with the cow byre beneath it for protection from the Scots raiders, as at Townfoot, belonged once to George, son of Anthony Birkett, commonly called George of Anthony, in accordance with the Troutbeck practice, to distinguish him from other Birketts. Very often the trade followed by an individual was prefixed to his name ; for instance, we hear of " Mercer Birkett," " Carpenter Birkett," and so on.

It is said that the then Lord Lonsdale once inquired of a boy in Troutbeck whether he had seen his lordship's chaise. " Aye," replied the boy, " it's just by ' Bill of Benjamin's.' "

Anthony Birkett's house was for many years the home of the Reverend Sir Richard Le Fleming, though one would hardly take it for the dwelling of a baronet of ancient family. Afterwards it was lived in by Thomas Harrison, better known as Tommy Harrison, or "Schulie," because he was parish clerk as well as schoolmaster. About sixty years ago Tommy Harrison was also the precentor, and led the singing in the primitive village choir.

A house a little further along the road was formerly called "Black Hall," and belonged to the Longmires, who succeeded the Dixons in its possession. Miles Dixon was living here in the time of Henry VIII. It is the first house of a cluster of houses called Longmire Yeat (pronounced here as it is spelt, but in Cumberland shortened to "yet"), or in the Southern tongue, Longmire Gate. The house at the northern end of the gate belonged to one Miles Birkett, a tanner, whence the adjoining field is called Tanner Close, and another, "Pit Paddock," is a reminder of the tanning pits which were



there. There is an oak cupboard in the house with the initials M.B.

It may be considered curious that in so many cases the oak furniture should remain, bearing the initials of the original owner of the property. This is accounted for by the fact that these pieces of furniture are part of the freehold—in many cases the cupboards are built into the wall—and so they have remained in the same houses from generation to generation.

Unfortunately, a great deal of old oak has left the village within the last few years. It is much to be deplored that old oak furniture has become sought after, in consequence of the dictates of fashion, by those who have no real taste or appreciation of the merits of such things, but who are willing to pay extravagant prices for old furniture. The result is that its enormously increased value tempts the owners to sell the oak out of the old farm houses, with which it is in keeping, and where the surroundings and associations make it additionally interesting.

The cupboards and “kists” of these

remote Northern homesteads were not designed to consort with the graceful work of Chippendale or Sheraton. They are in harmony with the humbler surroundings of a low-ceiled chamber, and with the rugged beauty of adzed rafters and balks of timber. How often one observes some old oak chair or table of rude local workmanship—and if it be genuine it will probably be somewhat cracked and broken as well—incongruously enshrined in the midst of the collection which too frequently fills our modern drawing-rooms; a medley of Japanese curios, chairs after the manner of Versailles, and decorations carried out in wonderful volute forms.

Near Longmire Yeat are the ruins of an old house called "Coatsyke." Being already in a ruinous state the eastern end of it was pulled down when the road was widened about 1878. Up to that time the road was only some nine feet across.

Coatsyke was in 1598 the home of George Atkinson, whose family died of the plague, which was prevalent in that year.

The following is the entry in the parish registers:

“George Atkinson wife, his man and his two children died of the plague, July 31st, 1598.”

Tradition says that the road which runs past Coatsyke was barricaded across at the smithy end, and also at the top of Rowantree Lane, so that none could go near the house or leave it. It is said, too, that the survivor and head of the house was last seen making his way up the banks behind his house, after which he was never seen again.

One can imagine the dalesman, widowed, childless, and outcast, striding up the hillside, shaking the dust of Troutbeck off his feet; but unfortunately this picturesque detail is controverted by fact, for it is certain that George Atkinson and others of his family lived at Coatsyke many years after this date.

There is nothing more to be seen by scrambling up the wall out of the road (the remains are almost overhanging the

roadway), and wading through the nettles which are growing rampantly round the ruins.

Nothing is left but a heap of fallen masonry, and some rafters rapidly rotting away. The stone mantel of the fire-place is still there with the familiar fluted pattern, but it is the only feature of the old house that can be recognised. Coatsyke, with its tragic memories, is no more.

In its latter days the old house was the home of the Benson family, whose graves may be seen in the churchyard.

"Great House," the home of the Longmires of Great House, is a building with narrow windows and a general aspect of antiquity, but it is no longer very imposing in size, nor is it, in its attenuated form, at all picturesque. As at Coatsyke, part of it was pulled down when the road was widened about sixty years ago. Two lengths of timber were removed, comprising the "down-house" and probably the parlour also.

From Great House a very large oak cupboard, one of the finest examples of old oak

in Troutbeck, was removed to "Lane." A small oak cupboard in the wall bears the Longmire initials. Formerly the letters, W.L. 1688, could be made out on the beam over the door of the barn opposite, but they have been destroyed lately by the mischievousness of the children who play about the old building.

There was at one time a dwelling house here, of which the "house" remains. Here may be seen an example of the wide open chimney (in this case the flue is constructed of lath and plaster work), and stone staircase leading to the upper storey.

A neighbouring house, a modernised one, is notable as having been the home of Thomas Hoggart, or "Ald Hoggart," the rustic poet and uncle of the celebrated painter, Hogarth. The old house faced south, and was at one time an inn kept by George Hoggart, under the name of "The Black Bull."

The other modernised house is called "Lane Foot," at one time a Braithwaite tenement.

Three cattle troughs, erected in this part of the village, which is known as Mid-town, attract the attention of the wayfarer. They are dedicated to St. John, St. James, and to "Margaret," but have no antiquarian associations. They were the gift of a benevolent lady, and local wits would have it that the Christian names of local celebrities had been perpetuated in the dedicatory inscriptions.

Near "The Mortal Man Hotel" is the homestead known as "Drummermire," or perhaps more correctly "Drummelmire." Like so many other houses, it was altered considerably about fifty years ago, when the eastern end of the building was pulled down, so that its length is curtailed, as at Great House.

In 1698 William Birkett was admitted to a tenement at Drummelmire Head by descent from his father, William Birkett, the manorial rent being 13s. 4d. Thence the tenement passed to the Cookson family; after that to the Storeys, and finally to Mr. Harrison Browne, of Townhead, by purchase. Since then it has again changed hands. The oak furniture, with the initials W. B., recalls the

tenure of the Birketts at the end of the seventeenth century.

A very dilapidated ruin serves as an out-house to Drummelmire, and despite its forlorn condition is well worth examination, since it is perhaps the best example of the smaller farm house in Troutbeck. The roof has fallen in quite lately over that part of the building which was once occupied by the cow byre, but the flagged "hallan" remains intact, running through the house, with an entrance on the south and an exit on the north side. An old oak door on the right hand side leads into the "house," where there is a fine specimen of the original open fire-place, extending as far into the room as the first of the great beams which support the upper storey. The room is lighted by two transom windows, which have been partly blocked up, and by a smaller "fire-window," with oak mullions, which lights up the chimney corner. Beneath this window would be a favourite seat. The recesses in the wall show where there have been small cupboards, or "lockers" as they were called.

A winding stone staircase leads to the upper storey, divided by the usual partitions of oak. The chimney, which has been remarked upon, extends several feet into the room and is built of great pieces of stone roughly laid one upon the other. It is some ten or twelve feet in breadth. The stone chimney here should be compared with the similar one in the old dwelling opposite Great House, which is composed of lath and plaster, surely a very dangerous method of construction for a chimney?

The house is known by the name of "Jownie Wife House" (Johnny's wife's house?) and is said to have been the home of one of the Cookson families. At one time a Robert Wilson owned the tenement.

There is no danger of overlooking the famous "Mortal Man Hotel," which towers over Drummelmire and is a conspicuous object from almost every point of view in the valley.

We may at least be grateful that a sky sign no longer graces its hospitable roof.

Alas! there is nothing now to be seen of



the exterior of the celebrated old inn. Its metamorphosis has been gradual from the humble village tavern to the hotel "with every modern convenience." First of all, some fourteen years ago, a lofty addition was added to the little white-washed house ; then the addition was continued, till now the old building is incased in the new, and nothing remains to tell of its former state but the initials I. C. (Isaac Cookson) and the date 1690, which are still preserved near the tap-room door. In the hall is a cupboard in the wall with the initials in lead of the same Isaac Cookson and his wife. The old flagged kitchen is still there, a reminder of the cheerful comfort of other days for which the elegance of the modern coffee-room by no means compensates.

However, we must make the best of a sad business and console ourselves with the reflection that if we wish to stay awhile in Troutbeck we can wish for no better quarters and for no kindlier hostess than "The Mortal Man" affords.

The story of the famous sign is so well

known that it scarcely needs repetition. It was the work of Julius Cæsar Ibbotson, who for two or three years lived at The Cragg at the very beginning of the nineteenth century. Upon the sign-board he depicted the portraits of two of his neighbours, whose physical proportions were in striking contrast to each other. The one a jolly fat fellow, called Nat Fleming; the other long, lean and pale, named Ned Partridge; beneath was inscribed the verse :

“ O mortal man, that lives by bread,  
What is it makes thy nose so red ?  
Thou silly fool, that look'st so pale,  
'Tis drinking Sally Birkett's ale.”

The sign-board has now disappeared. It is said that it was taken to Allithwaite, near Cartmel, by a former landlord, and that it was last traced to Lancaster; but in spite of the price which has been offered for its recovery nothing is known of its present whereabouts, or whether it be still in existence.

“ The Mortal Man ” stands above a little hollow known as The Slack, and a clump

of houses. The nearest house of the group is now called "Yew Bank," but was formerly known as "Beckside." It was once the tenement of one of the Birkhead families, who alone retained the early spelling of the name. From these Birkheads it passed to a branch of the family who spelt the name Birkett, and from them it was inherited by Mr. Abraham Poole, who sold the property. Not so many years ago the front door led out of what is now the yard, and over it was a good specimen of one of the old Westmorland galleries, now boarded over.

On old maps another tenement is marked which stood close by "Beckside"; but it has now disappeared. It was called "Winder's Tenement," perhaps from a Michael Winder who died about 1600. A very decorative lozenge on a neighbouring house at once claims attention. The lozenge is ornamented with the fleur-de-lys at each corner and the initials are W. <sup>B.</sup> I. and the date 1686. The initials stood for William and Jane Browne, who then lived here, and

were the parents of George Browne of Townhead, who rebuilt the church in 1736; in fact the house has been occupied by two William Brownes, both of the Townhead family. Some years ago there was evidence that there had been a house here of the earliest and most primitive type, built on great oak "crucks," or beams placed together to form a sort of Gothic arch. On these "crucks" the framework of the house was built. There is a very well-preserved house showing these "crucks" at Far Orrest, high up on the Applethwaite side of the valley.

Just behind Beckside is a house called "Slackfoot," which belongs to Mr. James Poole, whose grandfather married one of the Birketts of Middlerigg, who in turn acquired it by marriage with Catherine Fisher, whose family were the first owners of the tenement. The cabinet inside, marked T. B. 1723, was brought from "The Nook," the house immediately behind Slackfoot.

On one of the chimneys of The Nook are the initials T. B., which were placed

there by the Borwick family, once very numerous at this end of the village. The Borwicks disappeared and the house passed to the Birketts, and finally the Pooles purchased it.

The ascent of The Slack up a narrow lane brings us to a knot of houses called High Green. The modernised cottage which faces us as we come up the lane was the home of the Dixons. Another of their houses was the little ivy-covered cottage hard by, which is flanked by a yew tree.

On the right, a rather fine yew tree banked round with a pile of stones, shades the door of the house which belonged to the Benson family. It was once a larger house than it is now and the oak furniture within was brought from Gallow Howe, of which more hereafter.

The tenement of the Idles is quite new. This is another family which has disappeared from Troutbeck, but they were once settled here in considerable numbers. The roughly paved lane near the house is still called

Idle Lane. One strongly marked peculiarity of the township is the way in which certain families clung persistently, not merely to this village, but even to a particular part of it. The Birketts seem to have been ubiquitous, from their great numbers, but the other families remained for centuries in houses grouped together round the first cradle of the race.

Susan Idle, the last of her family, brought one more tenement into the hands of the inevitable Birketts by her marriage with one of them.

The beck which runs down from the hillside by High Green is called Scot Beck, but it is a little disappointing to find that this gives us no clue to any romantic tale of Border foray, but only perpetuates the memory of a family of Scott, or Scot, who lived here, for a not very considerable period, in a house known as "Scot's Tenement." The parish registers tell us that John Scot, son of Thomas Scot, was buried January 9, 1680.

If we walk along the lane towards the

head of the "town" we come to a modern house, quite unworthy of the interesting name of Butt Hill. The exact site of the butts is a matter of speculation—there seems no very suitable piece of ground in the immediate vicinity—but there is no doubt that the butts were somewhere near. In 1641 it was ordered that the king's butts should be kept in repair for the space of two years by each of the three hundreds in turn.

A paddock near Butt Hill is the original holding of the Birketts of Low Wood Farm, and just below is a house called Gallow Howe, which is built near the spot where the gallows were erected for the summary punishment of offenders against the forest law.

A footpath by Gallow Howe leads to the main road to the Kirkstone Pass, not the old road, however, which is the lane which branches off here and runs steeply down the hill. The new road was made about seventy years ago. By the side of the road stands the "Queen's Head Inn," and a barn

where formerly there was a house called Brunt House, held by one of the Benson families. Within the "Queen's Head" is a cupboard in the wall marked I.<sup>C</sup>.A. 1720, the initials of John Cookson and his wife.

If we turn down the lane, which was once the main road, we come to a whitewashed house—the old home of the Brownes of Townhead, a family which branched off from the parent stock of Townend about 300 years ago. Thomas Browne, the founder of the Townhead branch, was born in 1596. It remained in the hands of the Brownes till the daughter of Benjamin Browne of Townhead and Drummelmire married Richard Storey, whose daughter married Thomas Hayton, the grandfather of the present owner (1903).

The nearest house is a small one which was never a tenement of any importance, but it is known to have belonged to a family named Lancaster, two or three centuries ago.

Proceeding up the lane, round a sharp corner, we come to a house very much



overgrown with creepers and roses. In the early eighteenth century it was the home of Parson Grisedale, parish priest of Troutbeck, and its interior, for it has been very little altered since that time, gives a good idea of the simple surroundings of a Westmorland parson at that time. The "house" has a floor of the familiar blue flags; the ceiling is low, and of course there are the oak beams and joists.

There is an oak cabinet, dated 1705, which bears the initials of John Grisedale and his wife, and a "locker" in the wall by the chimney corner has the same initials and the date 1703.

The small house next to Parson Grisedale's old house was also in the possession of the Grisedale family at one time.

If we continue along the road there is a house below us, on the right hand side, where some clipped yews are conspicuous. It is a comparatively modern one, and has no history attached to it, but if we walk on twenty yards or so another little lane brings us to a group of three old houses, the cradle

of the Borwick family, two of them in the last stages of ruin and desolation.

From the building on the right hand side was brought the stone which has been placed in the wall over a trough by the "Queen's Head Inn." The slab bears the initial T. B. 1631, and another date added, 1660.

The second ruin, on the left hand, was once a very good house—also a Borwick tenement, of course, and not so many years ago it was possible to trace the plan of the old homestead. The remains of an outside staircase are still visible.

The prospect of these melancholy remains of the once prosperous Borwick family brings us to the extreme end of the village.

Away to the north, on the Applethwaite side of the valley, is a farm called Long Green Head, once the home of the Atkinsons. About 1670 it was purchased by one of the Storeys, of Browhead, in Applethwaite. A modern "residence" has been built on the site of the old Browhead, and is conspicuous on the road which leads from Windermere railway station to Troutbeck.

At the foot of the "Tongue," the round wooded hill which seems to block up the end of the valley, is a farm called Troutbeck Park; a reminder of the demesne which was granted to the Philipsons. This is the last house in the valley, and beyond it is nothing but the splendid loneliness of the fells that separate Troutbeck from Martindale.

So here ends our catalogue of the old houses of Troutbeck of to-day, and the reader who has laboriously waded through it will heave a sigh of relief; but the work of destruction and renovation is proceeding apace, and the time, alas! may not be far off when much that has been written here will be a tale that has passed from the ken and even from the memory of the people of Troutbeck.



CHAPTER XII.  
SOME OUTLYING HOMESTEADS.



## CHAPTER XII

### SOME OUTLYING HOMESTEADS.

THERE are some farmhouses which are sufficiently interesting, although not part of the village of Troutbeck, to be mentioned here. They lie within the *township* of Troutbeck, with the exception of the first, Longmire, which is actually in the adjoining township of Applethwaite.

The approach to Longmire on a fine day in June will not easily be forgotten. The road runs through a meadow bright with buttercups, by the side of a bank and hedge-row, where ferns grow luxuriantly and a wealth of wild flowers of every kind makes a glorious mass of varying colour. The house is surrounded by fine trees, among which the rooks fly round and caw vociferously. The stringed watercourses are again a prominent feature, and in the upper windows

some of the leaded lights have been preserved.

A low door in the gable end of the house shows that the cow byre was once beneath the dwelling-house. Perhaps the most striking feature of the exterior of the house is the gallery formed by the projection of the roof over the front door. An almost exactly similar gallery is to be seen at Hodge Hill, the fine old house of the Philipsons, near the church at Cartmel Fell. In the "house," a fine wainscoted room, is a beautiful long window, somewhat renovated, in which some small pieces of old glass have been inserted. These are said to have been brought hither from Hugill Hall. One fragment is dated 1565; another is figured with the Tudor rose and crown. Below the window is a long oak table, as at Townend, which is supported not on legs but on trestles. Mrs. Pattinson says that she has heard that there were formerly the heavy legs usually found in such tables, which were in this case fixed to the floor, but that the legs were cut away and the trestles substituted,



as the former arrangement harboured dirt. In those days besoms only were used to sweep the rooms.

The partitions between the rooms, both upstairs and downstairs, are of the original solid oak. The ceiling, also showing the great oak beams and joists, is of a height very unusual in an old Westmorland farmhouse, where the ceiling is generally extraordinarily low.

A tall farmer, near Windermere, said that he had never been able to stand upright in his own house since he was a boy.

The beautifully smooth and level flags were put down about forty years ago, the old floor being terribly uneven.

The house has been three times reslated, the last time but one being about two hundred years ago, at least so the late Mrs. Longmire used to say. The outer door of oak is worthy of examination. On it is a triangular iron plate (for the lock?) with the initials, I. L. 1690.

There are some particularly fine examples of carved oak furniture. A cupboard in the panelled wall is marked I. L. 1689, and a

linen kist belonged to E. L. 1682. The hearth shows the three stages of the development of the Westmorland fireplace.

First of all the great open chimney coming as far into the room as the beam nearest the fireplace. Then about a hundred and fifty years ago the stone mantelpiece was put in, which is still here, with the usual fluted pattern. Mrs. Pattinson can well remember "frying" bread or meat on the open fire in her young days.

Now we have the final stage, a grate with ovens.

The last male Longmire, of Longmire, was Jacky Longmire, the veteran sportsman, who hunted (and remember that in this country the chase is an arduous pursuit on foot) till his eightieth year.

The last time that he was out with hounds he was trying to climb over a wall in Troutbeck Park. "Dang it," he cried, as he struggled on to the top, "I can gae na further—I can't gae as I used to du." He died at the age of eighty-four.

Not very far from Longmire, also high up

on the Applethwaite fells, and commanding the glorious prospect across the lake, is a farm called Low Longmire, once the home of the Longmires, but which has been tenanted for some forty years by Mr. Bibby.

The dwelling-house is of no particular interest to the antiquary, but an older house, which is used for various domestic purposes, is one of the few examples in this part of the country of the most ancient and primitive dwellings built upon "crucks," that is to say, the first step in building the house was the erection of pairs of curved beams, placed so that each pair formed an arch. On the apices of the arches the roof-tree was laid. A tie-beam, or "pan," connected the "cruck" with its fellow, and on these beams the upper floor was laid. The side walls were built in after this wooden framework had been set up, as far upwards as the "pan," so that the "pan" rested on the top of this wall. The roof was carried to the wall outside the "crucks," leaving the "crucks" visible in the upper storey rooms.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Mr. Addy's "Evolution of the English House."

This curious feature of the house has been most carefully preserved by the present owner, and the "crucks" are plainly visible, both downstairs and also in the upper rooms. There is also a wide open hearth and moreover one that is still used, as a heap of new wood ashes testifies. The rattan-crook, from which the girdle for baking oat-cake was suspended, is still in its place.

Were we to proceed from Orrest, in the direction of Low Wood Farm, which is next to be described, we should cross the Troutbeck, at Troutbeck Bridge. The old mills here, now occupied by the Electricity Works, are worthy of note.

They seem first of all to have been bobbin mills, then to have been successively corn mills, fulling mills, paper mills, flax mills, and then bobbin mills again till the Electricity Works were established there.

From the Townend MSS. we find that "upon the 16th day of February in the year 1653, the corne milne and kilns, the miln-stones and all thereunto were totally

destroyed by fire at Troutbeck Bridge." There were also fires here in recent years, in 1867 and 1878.

A few yards from the bridge, on the western side, stood the "Black Cock Inn," famous in story. There are many variations of this "chestnut" to the effect that the landlord, John Camm, was prevailed on by his neighbour, Bishop Watson, of Calgarth Hall, to alter his sign, which bore testimony to the prevailing wickedness of cock-fighting. John Camm acceded readily, and substituted for his old sign a portrait of the Bishop, but not wishing to lose any of his former customers he placed beneath the portrait the disrespectful inscription, "This is the old Cock." The Bishop objected, and the former sign was restored. The sign with the black cock, probably the signboard which replaced the portrait of the Bishop, is preserved at Wynlass Beck. The inn is now pulled down.

Near Troutbeck Bridge, and now forming part of the Ibbotsholme estate, is Crawmires, once the home of one of the Longmire

families, an offshoot of the Longmires of Cragg and Orrest.

About half a mile further along the road to Waterhead are the homesteads of Middlerigg and Ecclerigg.

Ecclerigg was built about 1700 by John Cookson, and was originally called Langtale, a name by which one of the Ecclerigg fields is still known. The last of the Cooksons was Rowland Cookson, whose sister married an Atkinson and brought the tenement to that family.

The heiress of the Atkinsons married James Wilson, a Kendal solicitor, who sold his wife's property, without her knowledge or consent, to Bishop Watson, of Calgarth. It is still remembered in Troutbeck that his first intimation of the sale to his spouse was the announcement, "Jenny, I've sold Ecclerigg."

Middlerigg is still in the hands of the Birketts of Middlerigg, whose distant kinsmen own the much more interesting farmhouse now known as Wood Farm, but formerly called Low Wood. It stands

hidden in trees some little distance behind Middlerigg, and is passed unobserved by the casual wayfarer.

The house has three storeys, and the roof runs in a straight line from the dwelling-house over the cow byre and barn. Some years ago there was a wide, open fireplace and huge chimney in the "house"; it has since been altered to meet more modern requirements, but there is still at the back of the fireplace an iron plate with the date 1610, decorated with the arms and garter of our Stuart kings.

The chimney beam is marked 1685, and there are some fine pieces of oak furniture—a cupboard marked W. M. B. 1685, a chair of the same date, and a press of 1688.

The original "onset," as the phrase is, of the Birketts of Low Wood is at Butt Hill, near High Green, in Troutbeck, where the family still owns a small field, marking the site of their old property. Presumably they settled at Low Wood when Troutbeck Park was disparked. Low Wood is said to have been the first house built after that date,

followed by Crawmires and Ecclerigg. Formerly there were no Troutbeck houses built facing the lake, as this land was a deer park.

Until about ten years ago a splendid oak tree, the glory of the country side, was growing in the farmyard at Low Wood.

The writer remembers walking round one morning and finding that the noble tree had fallen a victim to the storm of the previous night, and lay stretched across the farm buildings, shattering the roof in its fall. It had previously been valued at £70.

In 1875 its trunk measured in circumference, at four feet from the ground, seventeen feet five inches. The height of the bole, from the ground to the first fork of the branches, was twenty-three feet three inches; but its most remarkable feature was its extraordinary height. It was commonly accounted the finest oak in Westmorland.

On account of the discussions which have taken place recently with regard to the age and rate of growth of oak trees, it is interesting to find that Clarke, in his "Survey,"



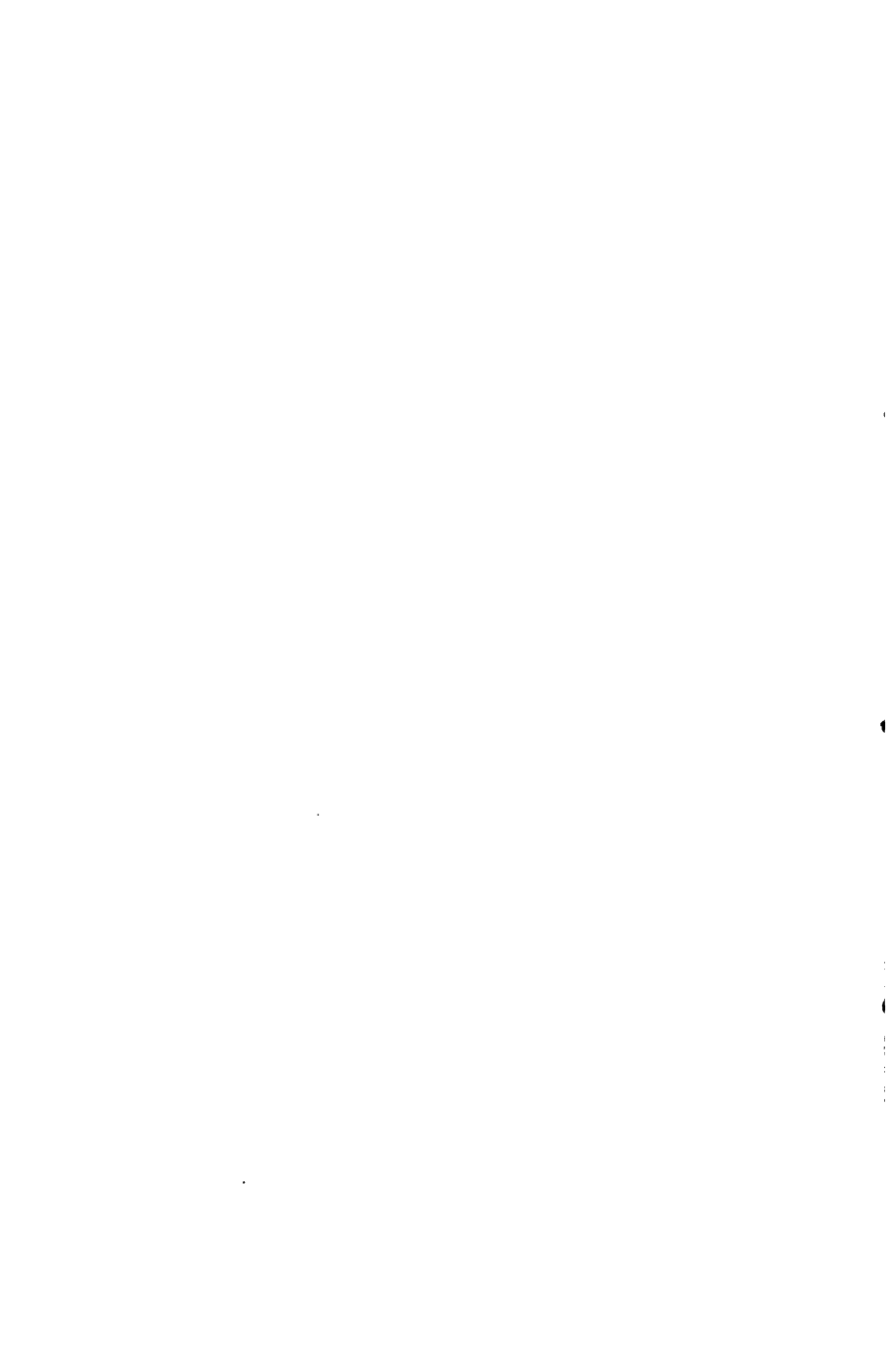
has left us a description of the tree in 1789, and also enables us to fix the date when it was planted, viz. 1729. There seems no reason in this instance to suspect the accuracy of the statement, or to have any doubt, as is often the case, that it is this particular tree which is referred to. This is Clarke's description in his own words :

“There is an oak tree growing at Mr. Birkett's, of Low Wood, which he himself planted, and which is a real curiosity on account of its beauty, magnitude and quick growth. A man of the name of Skilbeck had for some years taken notice of the quick growth of this tree : being once at Mr. Birkett's sheep-shearing, he found that he could, when sitting upon the ground, exactly fathom it ; next year, at the same season, he again tried the same experiment, but was unable (on account of the tree's growth) to embrace it by three inches. This beautiful ‘son of the forest’ is not above sixty years standing ; its bole is forty-five feet high, perfectly straight and

clear of branch or knot, its head is a verdant hemisphere, whose form is no farther broken than is sufficient to make it picturesque, and its intrinsic value is upwards of fifty pounds."

The quick growth of forest trees in the Lake Country, especially in the early stages, is well known.

## APPENDICES.



## APPENDIX A.

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### THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

THE faculty granted to Benjamin Browne in 1707 gave him leave to erect a pew in place of the reading desk which formerly stood just within the chancel door.

The faculty runs as follows :

“John by divine Providence Lord Archbishop of York, etc.

“To our well-beloved in Christ Benjamin Browne of Troutbeck in the parish of Windermere in the Archdeaconry of Richmond and diocese of Chester, gentleman, greeting.

“Whereas upon the late parochial visitation made upon the 14th day of January last by the worshipping Thomas Waite Esqre, Commissioner in Ecclicall affairs upon an Exact Survey then taken of the

Condition of the Chappell of Troutbeck.  
\* \* \* the Curates reading desk then  
Standing in \* \* \* the chancell was very  
improperly and inconveniently placed \* \* \*  
whereof our said Comiconr did then Order  
the said reading Desk to be removed and  
adjoyned to the pulpitt. \* \* \* Whereas  
upon Removal of the said reading Desk  
there will be a vacancy in the said Place  
\* \* \* wherein a very good pew may be  
erected \* \* \* and whereas you Benjamin  
Browne haveing a very good Mansion house  
and a Considerable Estate in the said  
Chappellry have requested our said Comi-  
coner to assign and sett forth the said  
vacant place according to the dimensions  
aforesaid to you for the Ereccion of a Con-  
venient pew or Seate for your Selfe and  
your family wherein to sitt and kneel and  
hear Divine Service and Sermon," etc.

A plan of the church made at this time  
(1707) gives an accurate picture of the older  
church, but it is evident from the church-  
wardens' accounts that the original church  
had undergone considerable alteration at

various times, especially the windows. The plan shows that in 1707 there were three windows at the east end of the church, the centre one divided by two mullions and a transom. The other two were much smaller windows, square headed, with only a single light. On the north side of the chancel there was only one window, on the south there were two; there were five other single light windows on each side of the church, and a smaller one over the chancel door on the south side.

There was a door where the present chancel door is, and also one on each side of the church.

In 1672 two new windows were put in at a cost of £2 7<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>; three new windows in 1673, with lime and walling, cost £1 1<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>; ironwork, 19<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>; glazing, 16<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>; turning tops for 2 windows, 1s.; and, again, in 1681 there is the item, "waller for lime for window and working it, 9<sup>s</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>; ironwork for window, 10<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup>; glass, 6s. 2d.; wood for forms and window lintel, 6<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>." In the following year, 1682, there appears a

similar entry. The last entry for windows is in 1686: "Paid Thomas Birkett for 2 new windows and enlarging an old one, 18<sup>s</sup>; paid Robert Gurnall for putting forth two new windows and settling an old one, 17<sup>s</sup>; paid for glass, 12<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup>."

### TROUTBECK SCHOOL.

The following is the text of the Agreement for building Troutbeck School in 1637:—

"Aprill the 10th, 1637.

"Memorandum,

"Thatt Stephen Birkett, George Birkett, and George Longmire, Wallers, shall well and sufficiently build a house att Troutbeck Church wh. walles made to be in length eight yards within the walles, foure yards and three quarters breadth within the house and foure yards and a half height in the side Walls and to make a sufficient chymney in the end of the fore-said house from the ground of stand, and a flue. A paire of stayres of stone where the same is convenient, and to have in



consideration of the said worke fifty three shillings foure pence, viz. XXVI<sup>s</sup> VIII<sup>d</sup> to be paid when the one halfe of the aforesaid worke is wrought and the other XXVI<sup>s</sup> VIII<sup>d</sup> to be paid when the whole worke is finished, out of the church goods, and if that any stones be wanting fo<sup>r</sup> building of the said house sufficient to be brought to ground by the Sawders belonging the said church.

“And likewise that Myles Sewart, carpenter, in consideration of the some of XL<sup>s</sup> to be paid as the aforesaid workmen are paid, to make a sufficient Rooffe fo<sup>r</sup> the fore said house answerable to the foresaid Walls three doores, seven Windowes, viz. two windows of five lights two of foure, and three of three lights and all to be cipher joynted on the lower side of the said windowes on the outside of the same, and to lay dormers a greater and a lesse within the said house wth joysts fitting fo<sup>r</sup> the same, and to make and lye a chymney beam, and all the wood worke and walls to be finished before the XXIIII<sup>th</sup> of June next coming.”

## APPENDIX B.

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### CUSTOMS OF THE MANOR OF WINDERMERE.

ORDERS to prevent the intimidation of jurors made at the Court held at Windermere (now called Bowness), on March 12 1476 :

“ If any reprove any that have been sworn in any Inquest taken before the Lord, or between party and party forfeits 3<sup>s</sup>. 4<sup>d</sup>.

“ If any discover the Counsel of any Inquest, or betray their fellows, forfeits to the Lord 3<sup>s</sup>. 4<sup>d</sup>. ”

At the same Court it was ordered that “ any of the Lord’s Tenants proceeding against another tenant in any but his own Court Baron or Beir Law forfeits to the Lord 6<sup>s</sup>. 8<sup>d</sup>. ”

ORDERS WITH REGARD TO SWINE OR GEESE  
IN THE FOREST.

At the Court held at Windermere in the reign of Henry VIII. (year not given) it was ordered that :

“Whoso hold any swine in the Forrest (Troutbeck and Ambleside) butt every one a Martinmas Hogg, and if that be not kept att the tenants own door ringed that it wrote not, forfeits 12<sup>d</sup>.

“Any tenant holding more than one swine (in the Forest) forfeits for every swine 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>.

“Whoso dwelleth out of the Forrest, and putteth any swine into the Forrest but only when it is Mast (*i.e.*, the fruit of the oak, beech, chestnut, etc.) and there to be scored [marked] forfeits 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>.

“Whoso holdeth any gait ot geese in the Forrest forfeits 12<sup>d</sup>.”

FIRES.

A tenement not exceeding 6s. 8<sup>d</sup>. lord's rent was allowed one fire only ; not exceeding 13s. 4<sup>d</sup>. rent was allowed two fires ; and for every additional fire 6s. 8<sup>d</sup>., and anyone

having more than his proper number was subject to a fine of 12*d.*

At the time when these regulations were made, and for a considerable time subsequent, the Lake District was entirely dependent upon wood and peats for fuel, so that it was necessary to have stringent rules to prevent extravagance in their use.

This accounts for the fact that some old houses in Westmorland have only one or two chimneys.

#### WOOD.

In the 17th Edward IV. (1476) several orders respecting wood and peats were made, and among other orders are the following :

“That whatt man or woman dwelling within the Forrest thatt felleth any wood for fuell in the wood assigned to his neighbours for cropping butt ellers and Birks, forfeits 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“Whoso felleth any wands or spelks [small stick] in the dales of his neighbours without leave or any green wood forfeits 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“Whoso takes any green wood in the parke of Troutbeck forfeits 12<sup>d</sup>.

“Whoso makes any coal pitts in the Forrest, forfeits 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.”

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By an order made in the reign of Henry VIII. it was ordered :

“Thatt no tenant of this lordshipp of Windermere shall sell no manner of goods butt with the same measures and weights that is used and occupied in Kirkby Kendall uppon payne off 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>.”

#### PARCELLING OR DIVIDING ESTATES.

By the following order made at a Court held at Windermere in the reign of Henry VIII. it is ordered :

“From henceforth shall no tenement pertaining to this lordshipp, or within this lordshipp be divyded or parted.”

In 1630 Mr. Christopher Philipson, the Deputy Steward, made some additional orders concerning wood and peats, viz. :

“Whoso breaks any garth or hedge or

takes any peats in other men's mosses forfeits 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“Whoso cutteth down or breaketh any other men's ash leaves forfeits 1<sup>s</sup>.

“That none shall rive [break] any hedge or fence at any time under pain of 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.”

#### CATTLE.

In 1630 it is ordered :

“That no tenant in Ambleside or Troutbeck shall suffer their kine or Chattell to be or remain amongst their houses or doors beneath their fineable yeats from midd May till Michallmas by the space of one day att one time upon payne of 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.”

The explanation is that regulations were made as to the land on which cattle and sheep should be pastured in summer. If they were brought back before their proper time their owners were subject to penalties. “A fineable yeat” is the gate through which the cattle had to pass to such pastures, and for which passage there was a fine.

According to these regulations a farmer was not allowed to turn more sheep on to

the fells in summer than he could winter on his own land. The reasons for this regulation are obvious.

There are also several orders made for Ambleside and Troutbeck in 1630, amongst others:

“Thatt none angle or fish by the water side in the meadows between the 1st of June and the 1st of August without license of the owners of the ground, forfeit 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“That none shears any grass in other men’s ground under payne of 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“Thatt no tenant shall keep any swine unringed after that they have had notice given by any of his neighbours under payne of 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

#### LIST OF OFFENCES.

The following extracts from the charge to the jury show the matters of which they took cognizance. They are instructed to present everyone guilty of the following:

“Of turning of land without the lord’s licence.

“Of goulding [ploughing] of lands.  
[? Common pasture.]

"Of gravings or breaking the soil by foreign men.

"Of hawking or hunting.

"Of fishers within the lord's several wastes.

"Night walkers, easing droppers [eaves droppers], petty mitchers [thieves], and their receivers and abettors.

"Fold breakers and rescues.

"Of fighters, flitters, affrayers, flitts, scolders and blood wykes.

"Of stopping or disturbing any right of way.

"Of scabed horses or mares holden against their neighbour's chattell.

"Of any manner of foreign chattell.

"Of holding divers marks on his chattell.

"Of them that drive at wrong rakes. ["Rakes" are narrow paths along which sheep are driven to the fell. Cf. Rake Lane at Townend, etc. A man was not allowed to drive his sheep up another's "rake" in order to bring them on to better pasture. The sheep is an animal which clings to a particular piece of ground even on an



unenclosed fell, and an owner was not allowed to keep his sheep to a specially choice strip of the common ground. Likewise you must not drive your neighbour's sheep off a particular strip of pasture. This could be done by frightening the animals at night. Sheep will not return to ground where they have been scared.]

“Of stocks and swarms of Bees found in the lord's woods.

“Of nutts gotten under Mansty Gate.

“Whoso maketh any Hubbleshow [disturbance] forfeit 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“Of any that staffherd their sheep on Woundale. [Woundale was the summer pasture.]

“Of persons hounding other men's goods forfeits 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.

“Of any that hds any pock [paddock] in the Forrest, or occupyeth any other than was in the Lord of Bedford tyme without licenced of the lord, forfeits 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>.” [John, Duke of Bedford held the manor 1427–1435.]

Some of these orders which date from the

reign of Edward IV. are not expressed in the phraseology of that period. This is accounted for by the fact that they were copied out and modernised in 1610 by Rowland Dawson, receiver of the barony of Kendal at that date.

## APPENDIX C.

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### SOME OLD STATESMAN FAMILIES.

IN 1584 there were nearly sixty land-owners in Troutbeck, of whom twenty-two represented the numerous family of Birkhead or Birkett; ten were named Borwick; there were three of the Browne family; three Braithwaites; three Longmires; and four Cooksons. The other names were Airey, Atkinson, Bateman, Dickson, Fleming, Hird, Idle, Pearson, Philipson, Richardson, Robinson, Walters, Wilson, and Wynder.

These families—we might rather call them clans—inter-married so frequently that their descendants are inevitably related many times over; a fact which is evident if any Troutbeck family history be carried back a little way.

**THE LONGMIREs.**

With the Birketts and Brownes the various branches of the Longmire clan have been the most numerous and important families in Troutbeck. The many branches and ramifications of this family, with the exception of the Longmires of Longmire, can all be traced to a common ancestry in the Longmires of Longmire Yeat, in the reign of Henry VIII. The Longmires of Longmire are descended from a John Longmire, living in 1571, and it is possible that the Longmire Yeat family are an off-shoot from the same stock, but no evidence can be found to point to a common origin of the two families.

The Longmires of Longmire Yeat, Great House, Cragg, Limefit, and Orrest are all descended from William Langmyer, of Longmire Yeat, who died in 1592. His son William Langmyer, living at Great House in 1590, married Genat Richardson, and as George Richardson was living at Great House in 1584, no doubt the tenement

came to the Longmire family by this marriage.

William Langmyer left three sons and three daughters. The eldest son, George Longmire, of Great House, married Elynor Birkhead and left a daughter and a son William (1611-1682). William had three daughters and two sons, George (1647-1662) and John (1650-1722). John, the younger son, married Bridget Browne, of Townend, and sold the house at The Cragg, called Birkhead, which he had inherited from his father. By his marriage with Bridget Browne he had four daughters and two sons, William and George. This last George sold Great House in 1735, and left a daughter named Bridget. Thus ended the Great House branch of the Longmires. William Longmire (*b.* 1585), the second son of William Langmyer and Genat Richardson, apparently left no children. In 1653 he gave three tenements in Troutbeck and one tenement at Hole Hird in Appleshwaite (reserving "the House at the Fould in Troutbeck" for himself and his wife during

their lives) to his nephew George, son of his brother, James Longmire, of Limefit (or Limethwaite, as it was originally spelt). This James (1598-1665) was the third of the sons of William Langmyer. James' first wife was Agnes Atkinson, and by this marriage he had two sons, William and George Longmire, of Cragg.

George Longmire, of Cragg, left a son James (1675-1753), who had by his second marriage a son, Jonah Longmire, of Cragg, who was succeeded by his younger brother, Daniel Longmire, Master of St. Peter's College, Cambridge (*b.* 1727), who was the great-grandfather of Miss Longmire, who now (1903) owns the Longmire tenement at Cragg. James Longmire (1675-1753) had a son by his first marriage named George, of the Crawmires, whose descendants spread to Orrest and elsewhere. A famous wrestler of the last century, Thomas Longmire, was one of them. To follow the fortunes of Limefit we have to go back to James Longmire (1598-1665), who left the tenement to the offspring of his second marriage,

James Longmire, of Limefit (1645-1705), who married a Philipson, of Barkbooth, Crowthwaite. Another James succeeded to Limefit and espoused a daughter of John Mounsey, the "King" of Patterdale. He left yet another James, who, dying without issue, bequeathed Limefit to his sister, who brought the tenement by marriage to the Brownes of Townend in 1737.

The Longmires of Longmire cannot, as has been said, be shown to have any connection with the other Longmire families.

The first John Longmire was living in 1571 at Longmire, according to an Award in Troutbeck Church. He left a son, also named John, who married Mabel Crow in 1599. After a succession of six Johns and Georges the estate descended to the last John Longmire of Longmire who died in 1882, and left Longmire to his niece, Mrs. Brownrigg Pattinson.

#### THE BORWICKS.

Of the ten Borwick families who in 1584 were all owning land in Troutbeck, no trace

now remains. Their tenements were at the "head" of the village. In the time of King Henry VIII. Richard Borwick was Bowbearer for the forest of Troutbeck to the Countess of Richmond, at that time the possessor of the Fee. His salary was 3*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* A Francis Borwick was born at Troutbeck in 1584, and in 1638 executed a deed of gift to the Poor of Windermere parish, which is known as Borwick's Gift.

Mabil Borwicke, of Troutbeck, widow, made a will in 1571, leaving "to the wife of Oliver Borwicke a spinning wheele, and to her and her sister, the wife of James Borwicke, all her shapen apparell."

#### THE BIRKETTS.

The Birketts are so numerous that any classification of the different families is impossible. The name, of course, is a place-name derived from "birk" = "birch," and "head," an eminence.

The Birketts of Low House were descended from George Birkhead, Bailiff of Troutbeck, in 1476, who left a son Nycolas



living in 1534. Nycolas' son George was living in 1551, and he left a son named Nicolas, who died in 1609. This Nicolas left a son, Stephen Birkhead, and a daughter Genet. Of Stephen's great-grandsons only one, Christopher Birkett, seems to have survived infancy.

Christopher's sister, Elizabeth, married Benjamin Browne, of Townend, and left many descendants. Another sister, Annas, married James Cookson, and had a large family. Christopher himself had only one son, who died at the age of seven. His eldest daughter married in 1743 Robert Forrest, and left six grown-up children.

#### THE FORRESTS.

The Forrests are a family who do not appear in Troutbeck before the end of the seventeenth century, but from that time they are closely connected by marriage with most of the Troutbeck families. Christopher and Robert Forrest both married wives named Birkett (which was also the maiden name of their mother), Ann Birkett, of Low Wood,

and Agnes Birkett, of Kentmere. Christopher Forrest's children died unmarried. Robert left a goodly number of children and grandchildren. Richard Forrest, another brother, left many descendants, among them a daughter Anne, who married George Browne, and was the mother of the present Bishop of Bristol, the Right Reverend George Forrest Browne.

#### THE ATKINSONS.

The Atkinson family of The Howe on the Applethwaite side of the valley, is one which was closely connected with Troutbeck for a long period.

In 1534 Thomas Atkinson was one of the arbitrators in a dispute between Miles Dixon, of Applethwaite, and George Browne, of Troutbeck, and either the same Thomas Atkinson, or another of the family (which is more probable) was one of the arbitrators in a dispute about the seats in Troutbeck Church in 1583.

The name Atkinson appears frequently in the list of Troutbeck churchwardens prior to

1737. In 1639 among the names of persons who signed the agreement for the foundation of Troutbeck School are Thomas Atkinson, William Atkinson, and Robert Atkinson. Thomas Atkinson was one of the first trustees for the Applethwaite part of the district.

The pedigree of the Howe family begins with Myles Atkinson, of The Howe in Applethwaite, who was living in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and died in 1638. He left a son William, who married Anne Borwick, and another son John, who married Isabel Robinson, of the same stock as William Robinson, incumbent of Troutbeck in 1633. John Atkinson's son, Christopher, married Isabell, daughter of Thomas Hird, of Troutbeck Park. Christopher's eldest surviving son, Thomas, sold the last of the Atkinson property at The Howe in 1737, to John Wilson, father of the famous judge, Sir John Wilson, who rebuilt The Howe as it appears to-day. Miles Atkinson, a younger son of Christopher, left a son John, who became a surgeon at Kendal, and married Jane Birkett, of High Green, Troutbeck.